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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
How big an impact
the closing of
Hollywood Theaters
is on the quality of life
on the islands?

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INSIDE



Primary Contest

Hillary Rodham Clinton reached for a victory in Pennsylvania's Democratic presidential primary to recharge her comeback effort.

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Bahamas Tragedy

Haitians fleeing their impoverished homeland met tragedy when their boat went down off the Bahamas, killing at least 20 people and leaving only three survivors.

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Brown Fan



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Senate confirms Norita as DPS chief. PAGE 2
Tinian, Rota senators lash out at Torres. PAGE 3

New category eyed for long-term aliens



FESTIVAL PREPS

Dave Corporation workers install the tents yesterday afternoon in preparation for the 27th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, slated for April 24-27, 2008 at the Civic Center in Susupe. The Flame Tree Arts Festival is Micronesia's largest annual arts and culture celebration, featuring traditional and contemporary visual, performing and culinary arts from the region and beyond.

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Saipan lawmakers are expected to pre-file today a bill that will allow long-time foreign workers to stay for five-year periods in the Commonwealth whether they have jobs or not.

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Golden Week charters to fly in 2,201 more tourists

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

A total of 10 charter flights will be operated by Continental Airlines and Japan Airlines for Golden Week, bringing in an additional 2,201

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RELATED NEWS

All set for historic charter flights to Rota. PAGE 3

Senate chooses to let PUC set the utility rates for NMI

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Senate shelved yesterday a bill that would reverse the October 2007 rollback of

power rates.

By a unanimous vote, the senators decided that no action be taken on House Bill 16-79 until the Public Utilities Com-

See SENATE on Page 4

Drivers feeling gas price squeeze

By ADAM SCHRECK
AP BUSINESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Cabbies here complain their take-home pay is thinner than it used to be. Trucking companies across the country are making drivers slow down to conserve fuel. Filling station owners plead that really,

See DRIVERS
on Page 4



The price board of a Chevron gas station is shown in San Francisco, Monday, April 21, 2008.

RELATED NEWS

Retail gas hits record \$3.50 a gallon. PAGE 15

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Local

Problems at 3 power plants trigger outages

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Ongoing mechanical repairs at two power plants coupled with an overheating cooling system at another power plant triggered another load shedding yesterday.

The outages started at 12:45pm when the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. took portions of Capital Hill, Kagman, and Papago offline. Power in those areas was

back at 2:01pm.

CUC Power Division acting manager Gary P. Camacho said that power production at Power Plant 2 in Lower Base and at Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico has been limited due to ongoing mechanical repairs in those plants.

In addition, the high temperature yesterday afternoon activated the protective alarms in the cooling system at Power Plant I in Lower Base, Camacho said.

These, he said, prompted the operators to reduce the power production.

"The power plants were not able to generate the required electrical power to adequately meet island demands, therefore load shedding was implemented," he said.

From 2pm to 4pm, the outage affected the entire Feeder 7 circuit or the Lower Base industrial area, north to Tanapag,

Achugao, San Roque, As Matuis, and Marpi.

From 4pm to 5:45pm, the blackout was in the Chalan Kiya area.

Camacho said that due to the Commonwealth Ports Authority's inability to self-generate at this time, the contingent outage schedule was changed.

For that reason, the acting manager said, the outage was routed to the Kiya 1 second partial or the

Lower Dandan, Isley Field, CPA, and As Perido areas.

The outage at Kiya 4 second partial or the areas of Mt. Carmel south to portions of Chalan Kanoa was rescheduled earlier at 5pm instead of 6pm.

Camacho said that repairs at Power Plant 2 are expected to be completed last night.

"As expected, CUC staff members continue to work diligently to resolve these problems," Camacho added.

On Monday, a leaking pipe in Engine No. 8 that had to be secured to the turbo charger caused an outage lasting less than an hour in some areas on the island.

WASC stresses 2-year rule

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
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REPORTER

Two representatives of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges met with officials of the Northern Marianas College and the government officials to emphasize the need for the college to comply with the two-year rule.

That rule requires accreditors to provide no more than two years for an institution to correct deficiencies and come into full compliance with accreditation standards.

In Monday's meeting with Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges president Dr. Barbara Beno and commission member Floyd Takeuchi, discussion centered on the college's need for financial support from the Legislature if the CNMI plans on keeping its only institution of higher learning.

Beno and Takeuchi shared that all colleges must comply with the two-year rule and that NMC is no exception to that rule.

Besides the two-year deadline, the rule also requires accreditors to terminate accreditation if the two-year time limit is not met—unless the commission identifies "good cause" for extension.

NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez said that since 1990, WASC has been telling the NMC leadership do program assessment and review.

"They want to ensure that by putting in this stronger sanction, that we do follow through and that in fact there is a response from the government and the Legislature to come to the aid of the college," said Fernandez in an interview.

If the college does not comply come the two-year mark, a move for the removal of the college's accreditation will be put into effect.

The WASC representatives are also visiting other areas of the Pacific and checking different schools to let them know that the two-year rule is a definite deadline they must comply with, otherwise they will have to shut down operations.

The two WASC representatives were on the island for only one day.

Senate confirms DPS' Norita

The Senate confirmed the nomination of former lawmaker Clyde K. Norita as commissioner for the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

The senators voted unanimously to confirm Norita's appointment after a brief hearing.

At the hearing, Norita outlined his plans for the department and addressed the looming deployment of some 32 DPS employees who are in the U.S. Army Reserve.

Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez and former Immigration Director Martin Manglona testified in support of Norita's nomination.

The Fitial administration announced Norita's appointment on March 11, 2008.

Norita replaced former Commissioner Rebecca Warfield, who is now back in her old job as an assistant attorney general

with the criminal division.

Norita is a retired police officer. He was a one-term member of the House of Representatives, serving from 2004 to 2005.

In 2006, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial appointed Norita to serve without compensation as his special adviser to the Department of Public Safety. After a brief stint at DPS, Norita was named executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

He has also served as an acting Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Public Safety. He rose through the ranks as a career law enforcement professional, going from police officer 1 to the rank of major. Norita attended numerous professional development conferences and law enforcement training sessions throughout his 20-year career at DPS. (Agnes E. Donato)

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Tinian, Rota senators lash out at Torres

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Stanley T. Torres is known for his biting remarks, but when he blamed Tinian and Rota for Saipan's power crisis, he aroused the ire of the two islands' lawmakers.

Senators from Tinian and Rota have lashed at Torres for suggesting that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is having financial problems because the Rota and Tinian power system do not pay for themselves.

Torres' comments were divisive and counterproductive, according to the senators.

Sen. Henry San Nicolas, who opened discussion of the topic on the Senate floor yesterday, said it was unfair of Torres to suggest that each island in the Northern Marianas weather the crisis individually.

"It is unwarranted for Congressman Torres to question such issue unless he considers that CUC Rota and CUC Tinian are autonomous agencies of the Tinian and Rota governments, rather than divisions of an autonomous agency of the Commonwealth government," San Nicolas said.

"As a member of the 16th Legislature and a citizen of Tinian, I sincerely wonder whether he is trying to say that with the trying times our Commonwealth is facing, the three main islands must act and pursue their sur-



San Nicolas

Mendiola

Manglona

vival independently," he added.

If that is the case, he said, Tinian is at a disadvantage, given the island's lack of resources and the fact that the U.S. military owns more than half of its land.

"Maybe with the assistance of Congressman Torres, if he is willing, Tinian can claim the money earned by the CNMI government from the sale of two-thirds of Tinian that is in the Marianas Public Land Trust, and pay the amount Congressman Torres is asserting Tinian owes. And I am challenging him with this task for the sake of keeping our CNMI government afloat," San Nicolas said.

Senators Joseph Mendiola and Paul Manglona also spoke about Torres' comments. They echoed San Nicolas' sentiments, and called for unity and cooperation among government leaders.

Earlier this month, Torres came out publicly saying that

Saipan customers are paying for utility service to Rota and Tinian residents.

He said CUC-Saipan incurs an annual surplus of about \$1 million. Despite this, Saipan is constantly lacking in funds for fuel because of shortfalls in CUC's Tinian and Rota operations.

He said Tinian customers collectively pay \$4.7 million less than the \$12.7-million cost of their power system. Meanwhile, Rota has an average shortfall of \$800,000 a year.

"Saipan customers are paying for Tinian and Rota. No wonder Telesource wants to move to Saipan to take over our power plants. This is where the beef is," said Torres.

Telesource CNMI, which operates the Tinian power plant, has offered to bring one of its generators to augment the power supply on Saipan.

CUC executive director Anthony Guerrero said Torres' figures were "generally correct."

All ready for historic charter flights to Rota

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

The general manager of Pacific Development Inc. said that all is set for the historic charter flights to Rota this weekend.

Yoichi Matsumura yesterday told the *Saipan Tribune* that the Rota International Airport is prepared to welcome the inaugural Rota charter flight that will depart Narita, Japan, on April 26 and is scheduled to arrive at 1am on April 27.

In fact, this Friday, April 25, airport staff will rehearse their welcome program for the 155 passengers aboard the inaugural Rota charter flight.

Matsumura said students from local high schools will also be bought in and will serve as stand-ins to simulate the arrival of 155 tourists. He said this will help airport staff check out the flow of airport procedures.

He said welcoming the "historic maiden flight" are representatives from the government sector, including Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos, the Rota Legislative Delegation, and staff from the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Marianas Visitors Authority, Transportation Security Administration, other government agencies and private firms, including Rota Resort Country Club.

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DFS is 'Keen on Green'

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Duty Free Shoppers Galleria on Saipan is joining its DFS partners worldwide in becoming "Keen on Green" for as long as the place is in business.

DFS Saipan president Marian Aldan-Pierce said the company has the first-ever companywide forum in which all employees were encouraged to participate in the company's effort to ensure that they are living "green."

Aldan-Pierce said the company has also formed a committee that meets via teleconference once a month to discuss progress on each division's "Keen on Green" initiatives.

Aldan-Pierce explained that

each division submitted a matrix on what type of recycling program is being done locally and what their plans are for future projects.

Ongoing programs may include simple and easy to do things like recycling paper by printing on both sides, recycling cans, newspapers, pallets, furniture, etc.; reducing energy consumption by turning off lights when leaving offices or building; encouraging employees to bring or use ceramic cups for drinks to reduce or eliminate usage of paper and styrofoam cups; participating in community cleanups; and lots more," Aldan-Pierce said.

She said that DFS Saipan has a huge display of 100 ways to

reduce one's carbon footprint and that each employee wrote his or her commitment on their own footprint.

In observance of yesterday's Earth Day, 30 employees of DFS Saipan picked up trash from Smiling Cove down to the seaport following the pathway on both sides of the road.

At the DFS corporate level, an Environment Strategic Task Force was formed to focus on reducing the use of energy at DFS worldwide.

A display of 100 ways to reduce carbon footprint hangs on the wall of the DFS Galleria. Each footprint indicates an employee's commitment to reduce his or her carbon footprint.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



NEW

From Page 1

The unsigned bill, a copy of which was obtained by the *Saipan Tribune* last night, proposes to create a new immigration category of "resident foreign nationals."

A foreign worker may apply for a resident foreign national entry permit if he or she has lived legally in the CNMI for at least five years and has met

character requirements.

A resident foreign national entry permit is valid for five years and may be renewed.

The bill does not offer permanent residency, resident status, citizenship, or nationality to a resident foreign national.

However, people granted this new immigration status would be able to live and work at will in the Northern Marianas in the same manner as a permanent resident. They would receive employment preference over

other foreign workers. They may operate a business, be self-employed, and employ other foreign workers.

Immediate family members of resident foreign national may enter and remain in the CNMI for the period of the permit of the resident foreign national.

Resident foreign nationals and any immediate family members admitted to the CNMI under this immigration category are, however, still considered aliens and may still be subjected

to deportation.

Representatives Tina Sablan, Heinz Hofschneider, Edward Salas and Victor Hocog will co-sponsor the bill.

The sponsors say in the bill that the proposed legislation comes in recognition of "the value of long-term and law-abiding non-citizen employees" in the Commonwealth.

They also outline the advantages of allowing long-term foreign workers to remain on the islands. They argue that resident foreign

nationals help the economy, as they have a vested interest in the local community and are likely to spend more of their earnings on island, rather than send money out of the Commonwealth.

The prospect of at-will employment will also relieve the administrative, processing and enforcement burdens on the Department of Labor, and stabilize a segment of the labor force that is critical to the CNMI's economic recovery.

Local business will benefit as they will not be required to pay

annual permit and processing fees and await the issuance of entry permits, or comply with extensive regulatory burdens.

Workers will also benefit as they can freely change jobs if their employment arrangements are unsatisfactory.

Further, resident foreign national status will promote a higher wage structure, improved working environments, and increased productivity for both citizen and non-citizen workers in the Commonwealth, the bill's sponsor say.

GOLDEN

From Page 1

airlines seats to the Commonwealth during the April 25 to May 5 high-peak travel period for Japanese travelers.

Continental Airlines will operate a total of seven charter flights during Golden Week, three of which are to the CNMI's southernmost chain, Rota.

The carrier's charters to Saipan will originate from Chitose on May 2, Sendai on May

4, Hiroshima on May 5, and Okayama on May 6.

The Rota charters, meanwhile, will all originate from Narita on April 27, 30 and May 4. Continental Airlines will use Boeing 737 aircraft for its Rota charters. Each plane has a capacity for 155 passengers.

Japan Airlines' charters, on the other hand, will all originate from Haneda and will fly to Saipan on April 26, 29, and May 3. Each plane will be a 372-seat Boeing 747 aircraft.

"Collectively these charters

are bringing an additional 2,201 seats into the CNMI from Japan. MVA will greet each of these flights with shell lei greetings," said the Marianas Visitors Authority in a statement.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio is elated with the 10 charter flights from Japan.

"We are very pleased to have the additional seats out of our No. 1 source market of Japan," he said. "Although the lack of airline seats into the CNMI still continue, these charter flights provide positive economic ben-

efits for our islands."

Golden Week is a collection of four national holidays within seven days. In combination with well-placed weekends, Golden Week becomes one of Japan's three busiest holiday seasons beside New Year and Obon week.

The four national holidays celebrated during Golden Week, according to www.japan-guide.com, are Showa Day on April 29, Constitution Day on May 3, Greenery Day on May 4, and Children's Day on May 5.

Showa Day (Showa no hi) is

the birthday of former Emperor Showa (Emperor Hirohito), who died in 1989. Until 2006, Greenery Day used to be celebrated on this day.

Constitution Day (Kenpo kinenbi), meanwhile, celebrates the new post war constitution that was put into effect in May 3, 1947.

Until 2006, Greenery Day (Midori no hi) used to be celebrated on April 29, the birthday of former Emperor Showa. The day is dedicated to the environment and nature, because the emperor loved plants and

nature. Before being declared Greenery Day, May 4 used to be a national holiday due to a law, which declares a day that falls between two national holidays, a national holiday.

Children's Day (Kodomo no hi) is actually the Boys Festival (Tango no Sekku). Families pray for the health and future success of their sons by hanging up carp streamers and displaying samurai dolls—both symbolizing strength, power, and success in life. The Girls Festival is celebrated on March 3.

SENATE

From Page 1

mission is ready to set new rates for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Meantime, the power rate for low-end power users will remain at 17.6 cents per kWh.

The action was taken at the recommendation of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication.

In a report, the committee said it was "simply unacceptable" that PUC, which was created over a year ago, had yet to organize or regulate rates. This failure, according to the panel, has "left the utilities functionally unregulated and the public at the mercy of the utilities."

House Bill 16-79, as originally approved by the House, proposes to restore the rate structure CUC adopted in 2006 in a bid to cope with oil price increases.

Some would-be drivers are considering less energy-dependent alternatives simply for money's sake.

In Los Angeles, for example, fiction writer Brian Edwards sold his gas-guzzling Ford truck and now relies on his skateboard or the bus to get around. Sharon Cooper of Chicago, meanwhile,

retiree from Arnold, Pa., who said a larger portion of her fixed income is now going toward gas. "I don't drive that often, but have to take necessary trips ... and (gas) takes a big chunk out of our budget."

And everyone, it seems, is more than willing to join in the griping.

"It's hell," said legal aide Zebib Yemane, who spent \$5 on gas for her Chevy compact at a 76 station in downtown Los Angeles just so she could make it to a cheaper gas station east of the area.

"When going downhill, I used to step on the gas. Now I don't," said Yemane, who said she normally spends \$80 a week on fuel

and asks people for rides and takes the bus to save money.

"Bottom line, we can't afford it no more, man. It's too much," Bak Zoumiane said as he filled up his yellow cab at a BP station in midtown New York. The West African immigrant said his next car will likely be a hybrid so he won't have to pay so much at the pump.

Gasoline prices typically rise in the spring as stations switch over to pricier summer-grade fuel and demand picks up as more travelers take to the road.

But this year prices are ris-

ing even faster than normal, experts say, because of the massive jump in benchmark crude prices, which spiked to a record \$117.76 a barrel Monday before settling a record settlement price of \$117.48 on the New York Mercantile Exchange, up 79 cents from the previous close. It was the sixth day in a row prices set new records.

Those soaring prices are putting added strain on refiners and filling-station operators, which are struggling to pass the higher feedstock costs onto consumers. So even as drivers pay more,

retailers—the most public face of the oil business—are getting increasingly squeezed.

"The farther you get from the wellhead, the greater the misery," said Tom Kloza of the Oil Price Information Service in Wall, N.J. "There's a lot of stations across the country that are literally on the brink of bankruptcy."

Samir Katib, the manager of a Marathon station in Chicago, said business has fallen at least 30 percent this year because customers are cutting back on driving and only using their cars when absolutely necessary.

DRIVERS

From Page 1

really, the skyrocketing prices aren't their fault.

And the rest of us? With gas prices now averaging \$3.50 a gallon nationwide, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service, more and more Americans who have to drive are weighing the need for each and every trip.

"To get to the doctors and all that, it's an awful lot of money," said Carol Licata, a 75-year-old

PMIC to do projects in lieu of \$70K fine

By RIANNE PANGELINAN-BROWN
rianne_pangelinan@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp. has sought the approval of the Environmental Protection Agency to go ahead and do environmentally beneficial projects in the CNMI rather than write a check of \$70,000 in fines due to violations of used oil waste storage and management regulations.

PMIC was busted by the EPA two years ago for committing waste violations. PMIC ac-

knowledged the fault but asked EPA if they could instead offer to do supplemental projects.

According to Patrick Wooliever, Tetratech's sustainability consultant based in San Francisco, a portion of PMIC's penalty is to do something related to the fine they got.

"In PMIC's case, used oil waste management. Instead of writing a check to the U.S. Treasury, they can do a project on island that would benefit the community and the environment here on Saipan," Wooliever said.

With the help of Wooliever, PMIC came up with three separate projects that they plan to get started on in the near future.

The first project is to visit at least half a dozen hotels on Saipan and educate them on reducing their environmental footprints.

"That would be energy usage, solid waste management, hazardous materials, and limitations of janitorial supplies to make sure they don't contain carcinogens," Wooliever said.

He said that a meeting with the hotels would be held at the end

of the week to let them know of what they've found and suggest other good hospitality management practices.

A second project is to work with the Division of Environmental Quality in providing auto repair facilities simple and inexpensive equipment to manage their used oil.

"There are about 200 auto repair shops on the island. And many of them are one- or two-men operations with unsophisticated setup and equipment with used oil," Wooliever said.

He says the used oil seeps into the soil, degrading groundwater.

Finally, the third project is to run a used oil collection event in which household residents can turn in their used oil free of charge. The used oil collected will be sent Gresco Company, a recycling center in Guam. The

event will be promoted by DEQ come June 21.

Wooliever said that it's "a bit arduous to get that through EPA's bureaucracy and get it approved. But it's a great example. Giving something back to the local community for good benefits that they sorely need than to write a check that God knows where it would go in the federal budget."

Wooliever said that the three projects for his PMIC client is

part of an environmental settlement with the EPA.

He said the three projects would cost more than the \$70,000 fine imposed on his client.

When asked why they chose to do the latter, he said: "They have an interest on Saipan and they'd rather spend the money on something beneficial to Saipan rather than write a check that goes to U.S. Treasury where Saipan does not get any benefit."

Govt seeks deportation of three caught in illegal taxi crackdown

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The CNMI government has moved for the deportation of three of the 12 persons who were arrested during last weekend's crackdown on illegal taxi operators on Saipan.

The Division of Immigration, through assistant attorney general Kevin Lynch, filed yesterday separate deportation cases against Guanghua Wu, Hu Li, and Xiao Jun Cao.

Wu, Li, and Cao, all male Chinese, were taken to the Superior Court yesterday morning for a bail hearing.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$1,000 unsecured bond for the temporary lease of each defendants and ordered them to appear in court on May 1, 2008, at 1:30pm to explain why they should not be

deported.

Immigration Inspector Joseph R. Palacios and Immigration Investigator John Peter stated in court documents that Wu and Li have overstayed in the CNMI for over seven months, while Cao has overstayed by over a year and three months.

Wu and Cao were among 12 Chinese persons arrested in Garapan during a crackdown on suspected illegal taxicabs.

According to the Immigration officers, Wu and Cao were among the drivers of suspected illegal taxis that were observed picking up and dropping off passengers.

Wu and Cao were subsequently released from detention after posting bail but on Monday afternoon, Immigration agents again arrested the two in Susupe after verifying that they are overstaying aliens.

Labor and Immigration records

indicate that Wu's nonresident worker's entry permit expired on Sept. 11, 2007, while Cao's permit expired on Dec. 1, 2006.

Wu used to work as a sewing machine operator at Michigan Inc., then became a storekeeper.

Cao previously worked as a farmer. He became a commercial cleaner for Success Corp. and as waiter for Xing Wang Development Corp.

With respect to Li, Immigration said that the respondent was a passenger of a vehicle whose driver was arrested for allegedly operating an illegal taxi.

Li's nonresident worker's entry permit expired on Aug. 25, 2007. He used to work as a cutter and machine operator for garment manufacturers Hansae Saipan Inc. and Kyung Seung Saipan Inc. He was then employed as a cutter for garment manufacturer Rifu Apparel Corp.

Deportable alien waiting for repatriation arrested again

A deportable alien who was temporarily released from detention in July 2007 while her travel documents are processed has been waiting for her repatriation to China for about nine months now.

However, after failing to call Immigration as agreed for her temporary release, Immigration agents arrested respondent Miss Difang Xu on Monday.

Xu was taken to the Superior Court yesterday.

Attorney Perry B. Inos explained to the court that Xu's failure to call Immigration was only a misunderstanding on the respondent's part. Inos said the respondent has been calling her office.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman imposed a \$2,000 cash bail and ordered Xu to appear in court on May 22 at 1:30pm for a status conference.

Wiseman directed Xu to comply with the previously imposed pre-trial order release such as calling Immigration twice a week.

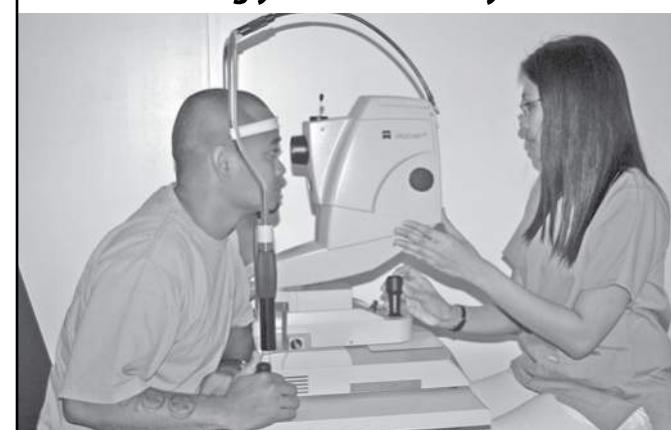
The respondent was among five Chinese persons arrested in December 2006 in a reported human smuggling attempt to Guam.

In January 2007, Wiseman found Xu a deportable alien after finding that the respondent

conspired with others to exit the CNMI on a sea vessel and board the boat with the intent of entering or attempting to enter the U.S.

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event will be promoted by DEQ come June 21.

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

APRIL 26, 2008 – SATURDAY	APRIL 27, 2008 – SUNDAY
10:00 am Party Exhibit Opening	10:00 am Bridal Fair (day 2)
3:00 pm Bridal Fair Opening	6:00 pm Party and Bridal Make-up Competition
	8:00 pm Bridal Fashion Show

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For Birthday, Christening and Wedding Receptions please register on line at www.fiestasaipan.com/bridal-party_fair.php
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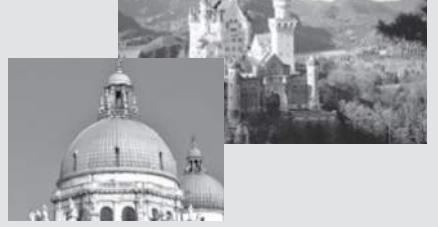
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Man allegedly beats up his wife at Susupe park

Police arrested a man who allegedly beat up his wife at the Susupe Regional Park during an argument early Sunday morning.

Adrian Baculod, 23, was arrested for assault and battery. A \$2,100 cash bail was imposed for his temporary liberty.

The wife sustained a laceration in the face, police said.

Detective Andrea C. Ozawa stated in her report that on Sunday at 1:15am, two police officers were on routine patrol when they spotted a vehicle parked at the Susupe Regional Park with its parking lights on.

As the police officers were approaching the entrance to the park to check the car, the vehicle headed toward them. The driver's window rolled down and the driver, later identified as Baculod, told the officers that he was just having an argument with his wife.

The officers then heard a woman inside the car yelling for help. The officers instructed Baculod to park the car. Baculod, however, allegedly drove out of the park's exit to Beach Road. This prompted the officers to activate the siren and pursue the car.

The car stopped near the Mo-

Saipan council seeks funds to secure office

The Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council is lobbying the Saipan legislative delegation for funds to upgrade its office security.

The municipal council, which has been hit by a spate of burglaries, also wants money to replace the equipment and supplies stolen from its Chalan Kanoa office last year.

The previous legislative delegation approved a \$38,000 appropriation for this purpose last year, but the governor used his line-item veto authority to strike it down.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial took issue with the language of the

'Sumptuous Buffet' today at the Fiesta

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan will celebrate Administrative Professionals Day with a "Sumptuous Buffet" today at its Mai and The Bund restaurants.

For just \$17, management can treat their secretaries and administrative staff to a mouth-watering buffet lunch made up of delectable Japanese and Chinese cuisine.

Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's "Sumptuous Buffet" is from 11am to 2pm and the first 100 professionals will take home a free mug from the Garapan landmark. As an added treat, for every five local diners, the fifth one will be free of charge.

For reservations, call 234-7171 and ask to be connected to the food and beverage department.

Administrative Professionals Day, formerly known as Secretary's Day, is an unofficial secular

holiday observed on the Wednesday of the last full week of April, to recognize the work of secretaries, administrative assistants, receptionists, and other administrative support professionals.

National Secretaries Week was created in 1952 through the work of Harry F. Klemfuss of Young & Rubicam, in conjunction with the National Secretaries Association, now known as the International Association of Administrative Professionals.

His goal was to encourage more people to consider careers in the secretarial/administrative support field. Using his skill and experience in public relations, Klemfuss promoted the values and importance of the job of administrative assistants. In doing so, he also created the holiday in recognition of the importance of administrative assistants. (Mark Rabago)

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New night at Club V promises acoustic faves, Carlsberg beer

Club V will be hosting a new acoustic night at Club V every Wednesday starting tonight. Popular at other venues around Saipan, acoustic night already has a large following of partygoers looking for a different kind of sound but with all the popular songs you love to sing along to. Club V promises to be "the place" to be on Wednesday nights, where you and your friends can have a great time

while kicking back after a hard day. Band Synergy plays tonight with a guest appearance by new band "Remyx" from the Philippines, who will be officially debuting later in the week.

Tonight is also the launch of a new beer that some of you may be familiar with. Carlsberg beer, from Denmark, makes its debut tonight at Club V. Expect to taste a premium pilsner beer that goes down smooth and is not over-

powering to taste. You might pick up on the Danish summer apples in the crisp flavor.

The new bottle is something not seen before, with its dark green appearance and label-free bottle. Instead of a label, the word Carlsberg is embossed down the side, giving it a sleek, sexy appearance. Officially launching tonight, Carlsberg will be on special for just \$3 a bottle. Also, with every purchase

of Carlsberg, receive a raffle ticket and be in to win great prizes like Carlsberg t-shirts, caps, key chains and other great giveaways. Host Brad Ruszala will be keeping you entertained between band sets. Entry is \$5 at the door, which includes a complimentary bottle of Carlsberg. Open from 9:30pm to 1:30am, come along and enjoy "Probably the best beer in the world." (PWS)

BUSH FIRE

A large cloud of smoke covers the mountain area of Wireless Ridge to the outskirts of Tanapag Village when a bush fire broke out Monday afternoon.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Palauan community meeting

This is to inform all Palauans residing in the Commonwealth that there will be a meeting with members of the Palau International Coral Reef Center in regards to scientific information to the local and international entities about the status of coral reefs and associated marine ecosystems.

The meeting will be held on April 24, 2008, 6:30pm, at the Abai Land on Navy Hill, Saipan, behind the Palau Evangelical Church.

For more information, call the Palau Consulate at 235-6804. (PR)

Memorial Day meetings

May 26, 2008 Memorial Day, we will be paying tribute to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who are no longer with us. We will remember those who served our great nation so that we may enjoy the fruits of freedom of a democratic society.

This is to let all Memorial Day Committee members and all interested in being part of the committee, that we will be meeting every Tuesday at 9am, at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill building 1364. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend.

MHS Class of '88 meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1988 will have a meeting on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at the residence of Melvin and Eleanor Cepeda in As Lito, behind Saipan International School (SIS), at 6:30pm.

Reunion day is just around the corner. Final details to be discussed at the meeting so all classmates are encouraged to attend.

For more information contact Lillian Lizama Tudela at 287-3742 or Dennis Vilagomez at 287-4689. (PR)

Chamber reception for USS Higgins today

Hyatt Regency Saipan will host the Chamber's reception for the officers and crew of the USS Higgins today, April 23, 2008,

6pm, beachside. There will be complimentary light food refreshments and a no-host bar. The Saipan Chamber will exchange plaques with the *Higgins*, as this is her first visit to Saipan. The USS *Higgins* has approximately 380 crewmembers.

Combat veterans briefing

This is to invite all combat veterans and their dependents for an information/counseling briefing by Catherine Illarmo, the Department of Veterans Affairs Team Leader/LCSW from the Guam Veterans Center. The briefing will be on Thursday, April 24, 2008, at 1pm at the Army Reserve Center.

The Veterans Center is committed to providing quality readjustment services to returning war veterans. In the effort to address the needs of veterans residing in the CNMI, they are making plans to extend the services to Saipan on a monthly basis.

In addition to this meeting, there will be a limited number of individual counseling appointments available for Friday morning, April 25, 2008, at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs on Capitol Hill at Bldg 1364, at 9am. Should you be interested in counseling, call Catherine at 1-671-472-7161 or Ruth at 664-2650.

Any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military/Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. (PR)

CK Elem. School Class of '82 meeting

Members of the Chalan Kanoa Elementary School Class of 1982 (7th graders) are being informed that there will be a meeting on April 24, 2008, at the residence of Robert and Linda Concepcion-Torres in Dandan.

Final details for the reunion will be discussed. All classmates are encouraged to attend this important meeting. For more information you can contact Linda Concepcion-Torres at 288-8141; Lillian Mendiola Pangelinan at 483-5455 or Cathy Pangelinan Salas (inden) at 287-3911 or e-mail

reachlctorres@gmail.com. (PR)

Benito Clan reunion meeting

This is to inform the children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of Vicente Gogue Taitano and Juan Gogue Taitano that the next meeting for the "Benito Clan Reunion" will be on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at the residence of Prescilla T. Castro and Gloyd Martin in Kagman III, at 6pm. Family members are urged to please attend this important meeting. For more information, contact Eleanor Aldan Cepeda at 483-5974 or Cecilia Taitano Celis at 285-0607. (PR)

Utility payment assistance available

Funds under the Mayor's Utility Assistance Program are now available to help qualified residents pay for one month of their power bill.

This is a federally funded program available to residents of the Municipality of Saipan who are unable to pay their power bill with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela said that applications may be picked up at his office at Afetnas Square in San Antonio during regular working days.

For more information call the Saipan Mayor's Office at 235-7304 or 234-6208. (PR)

Hopwood upcoming events

- May 4, 5, 6: Accreditation visit. Parent and community involvement is highly encouraged
- May 19 - 20: 8th Grade Final Exams
- May 28: 8th Grade Promotion Day (2:30pm-5:30pm)

MHS Calendar of Events

- April 21-25: SAT10 Tests
- May 5-16: Advanced Placement Tests
- May 12-16: Standards-Based Assessment Tests
- May 26: No classes (Memorial Day)
- May 31: MHS Commencement Ceremony
- June 3: Fourth Quarter ends

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

APRIL 23, 1999

OSHA: No sweatshops on Saipan

There are no sweatshops on Saipan, according to OSHA officials and administrators. Region IV OSHA administrators offered to SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce, this assessment at a closing conference for United International Corporation, and after concluding a large portion of the first baseline study of the CNMI Garment industry since 1996.

CNMI to lobby vs. imposition of tariff

Worried over a proposal seeking to strip the CNMI of duty free privilege, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said his administration will lobby against such move in the US Congress because of its disastrous impact on the island economy largely dependent on the garment industry. US Congressmen Bob Franks (R-NJ) and John Dingell (R-Michigan) have sponsored a legislation that seeks to impose tariffs on finished garment products coming from the islands, as well as forbid the use of "Made in USA" labels on locally-produced apparel.

Prison contract signed

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, along with representatives from various government agencies, has signed two contracts to renovate and build a minimum security facility and to plan a new main prison for Saipan. The \$530,000 12-month contract was awarded to Lichtman & Associates as planners of the new Saipan prison facility. The New Jersey-based firm is scheduled to make four trips to the island with the first visit slated for mid-May, according to Andrew Smith of the Department of Public Works.

APRIL 23, 2001

NMHC's loan program benefits 126 families

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation over the weekend announced that it is persistently providing assistance to the public with respect to mortgage servicing. Under the NMHC-MPLT Loan Program, NMHC was able to accommodate a total of 126 recipients with a total aggregate amount of \$8,581,59.20, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Tenno hoping for a deal on 3-yr. limit stay law

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday expressed optimism the Senate and the House of Representatives will reach a compromise agreement that will put to rest controversies surrounding the three-year stay limit law. Tenorio said legislators should recognize the local economy's heavy dependence on nonresident workers, pointing out that an exodus will only aggravate economic conditions in the CNMI.

Senate to hold own inquiry on CUC debt

The Senate will hold separate independent inquiry on the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's outstanding loan from the Commonwealth Development Authority to shed light on the issue of breach of fiduciary responsibilities. Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said regardless of the invitation extended by House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication Chair Rosiky Camacho to attend the CUC-CDA inquiry today, the Senate will still conduct its own investigation to determine the culpability of the utility corporation.

APRIL 23, 2002

CPA courting Philippine Airlines back

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will formalize negotiations with Philippine Airlines executives next month, in line with plans to reinstate nonstop Manila-Saipan flights previously provided by the carrier. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas yesterday disclosed that he is scheduled to meet with PAL officials next month to thresh out concerns raised during a discussion between the CNMI and the Philippine delegations two months back.

Envoy's summit to focus on trade, tourism

Preparations for the first-ever Consuls General Summit Conference, which will be held on Saipan in May, kicked off yesterday with a free-wheeling discussion between the Babauta administration and the consuls general of Japan, the Philippines and Palau on issues ranging from delayed Authorization To Board documents to enhanced tourism promotion efforts. Gov. Juan N. Babauta said he would soon be naming members to a committee that would work with the consuls general in threshing out the logistics of the summit, which would be attended by diplomats from, among others, the Philippines, Japan, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, Australia and South Korea.

Managaha selected No. 1 snorkeling spot

Managaha Island has been selected as the "Best Beach & Snorkeling Spot" at the 7th Dive & Travel Awards 2008, held during the Marine Diving Fair in Tokyo, Japan. This is the fourth year that Managaha has received this honor.

The recognition drove many visitors to the CNMI's booth at

the fair. As part of the booth's excitement, the Marianas Quiz was played, with the winner receiving a round trip ticket to the CNMI from Japan, compliments of Northwest Airlines.

Hitoshi Yamaguchi of NMDOA and Marianas Visitors Authority Japan representatives Nanako Shibuya, Wataru

Takaku, and Akira Takatsu participated in the fair. A life-size Saipan-da made an appearance during the event.

A total of 51,236 people attended the event, which was an increase over the shows attendance in 2007. Of the shows attendees, 80.8 percent were divers and 19.2 percent were in-

terested in resort destinations.

"Diving continues to be a sport that draws tourists to our islands," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Showcasing our islands at a dive specific show should continue to increase in the underwater world in the CNMI." (MVA)



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

REACHING OUT

Mariana Blue Co. Ltd. Japan president Yuka Kitamura, Japan's rising singer and composer Tetsuya Rikiyama, Mariana Blue's Saahiko, Akari, and Yoshio gather for a group photo with William S. Reyes Elementary School kindergarten students and teachers after providing musical presentation and origami lesson yesterday. The nonprofit charitable group started in December 2006, providing free entertainment for children and the handicapped.

Guam wastewater treatment plant to get \$36.2M upgrade

The Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific awarded CDM Constructors, Inc., of Carlsbad, California, a \$36.2 million, firm-fixed price contract yesterday for wastewater treatment plant repairs and upgrades at Naval Base, Guam.

The purpose of the project is to restore design capacity and operational capability to Navy Region Marianas' Apra Harbor wastewater treatment plant, and to meet Environmental Protection Agency wastewater treatment

requirements for discharged effluent. Project work will also include upgrades to process components and equipment, which will provide operational reliability and efficiency to the system.

"The Navy's wastewater treatment plant at Apra Harbor is showing its age, and this project is essentially a complete overhaul of the plant," said Captain Paul Fuligni, regional engineer, Navy Region Marianas and commanding officer of NAVFAC Marianas.

"The investment will ensure the Navy can continue to properly treat sewage from the base and surrounding Navy housing areas in compliance with all environmental requirements. The project will also replace one of our major sewage lift stations serving the base waterfront, and provide for improved protection of the plant from major storms," added Fuligni.

The contract calls for a larger capacity pump station, a new ultraviolet disinfection system, new influent and effluent pump station

upgrades to a primary clarifier, and upgrades to the bio-towers and the odor control system.

"While not glamorous, our sewage system is absolutely essential to day-to-day operations here at Naval Base Guam. This is one of several projects for recapitalization of the Navy's utilities infrastructure," said Fuligni.

This contract was competitively procured with 79 solicitations issued and four proposals received. Work is expected to be completed by May 2010. (USN)

US Senate takes up H.R. 1595

HAGATNA, Guam—A motion to pass H.R. 1595, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act, by unanimous consent was offered on the floor of the United States Senate on Thursday, April 17.

Sen. Barbara Boxer of California, who was the Majority's floor manager on a number of bills, requested that the bill be passed. Sen. Jim DeMint of South Carolina, however, objected to the unanimous consent request, thus precluding the bill from having passed at the time the motion was made.

Sen. Patrick Leahy of Vermont, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, at the request of Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo, had earlier in the week cleared the bill through the Majority and subsequently requested that the Majority Leader bring the bill to the floor.

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 1595 by a recorded vote of 288 yeas to 133 nays on May 8, 2007, with seven votes more than needed to satisfy the two-thirds requirement for passage under the procedure through which it was debated and called up. The following day, May 9, 2007, H.R. 1595 was formally received in the Senate, read twice, and referred to its Committee on the Judiciary.

"I continue to work closely with Chairman Leahy and Majority Leader Harry Reid on ways to secure timely Senate consideration and passage of H.R. 1595. Together, we are working hard to pass this bill with bipartisan support and to ensure all Senators have all the information they need and that they understand why this bill is important to the people of Guam and to our national security," said Bordallo. I am grateful for the bipartisan support for H.R. 1595. Our friends in the Senate are very much engaged in helping us with this bill. Chairman Leahy has assured me that he continues to work very hard to pass H.R. 1595."

"This is an important issue for the people of Guam," said Governor Felix Camacho. "I am committed to working closely with Congresswoman Bordallo in this bipartisan effort to ensure the Guam war claims bill is passed by Congress." (PR)

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STADT HAMBURG	015E	4/12 SAT	4/10 THU	3/31 MON	4/17 THU	4/1 TUE	4/5 SAT	4/18 FRI	4/14 MON	4/13 SUN	4/8 TUE	3/30 SUN	4/14 MON	4/18 FRI	4/19 SAT
MELL SENOKO	003E	4/19 SAT	4/17 THU	4/7 MON	4/24 THU	4/8 TUE	4/12 SAT	4/25 FRI	4/21 MON	4/20 SUN	4/15 TUE	4/6 SUN	4/21 MON	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	008E	4/26 SAT	4/24 THU	4/14 MON	5/1 THU	4/15 TUE	4/19 SAT	5/2 FRI	4/28 MON	4/27 SUN	4/22 TUE	4/13 SUN	4/28 MON	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT
STADT HAMBURG	016E	5/3 SAT	5/1 THU	4/21 MON	5/8 THU	4/22 TUE	4/26 SAT	5/9 FRI	5/5 MON	5/4 SUN	4/29 TUE	4/20 SUN	5/5 MON	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT
MELL SENOKO	004E	5/10 SAT	5/8 THU	4/28 MON	5/15 THU	4/29 TUE	5/3 SAT	5/16 FRI	5/12 MON	5/11 SUN	5/6 TUE	4/27 SUN	5/12 MON	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT
MELL SINGAPORE	009E	5/17 SAT	5/15 THU	5/5 MON	5/22 THU	5/6 TUE	5/10 SAT	5/23 FRI	5/19 MON	5/18 SUN	5/13 TUE	5/4 SUN	5/19 MON	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT
Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETA Saipn	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA GenSan	ETA Davao	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Kobe	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore	
STADT HAMBURG	015E	4/25 FRI	4/26 SAT	4/26 SAT	4/29 TUE	4/30 WED	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/6 TUE	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	5/13 TUE	5/13 TUE	5/11 SUN	5/14 WED
MELL SENOKO	003E	5/2 FRI	5/3 SAT	5/3 SAT	SKIP	5/7 WED	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	5/13 TUE	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/20 TUE	5/20 TUE	5/18 SUN	5/21 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	008E	5/9 FRI	5/10 SAT	5/10 SAT	5/13 TUE	5/14 WED	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/20 TUE	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/27 TUE	5/25 SUN	5/28 WED
STADT HAMBURG	016E	5/16 FRI	5/17 SAT	5/17 SAT	SKIP	5/21 WED	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	6/3 TUE	6/3 TUE	6/1 SUN	6/4 WED
MELL SENOKO	004E	5/23 FRI	5/24 SAT	5/24 SAT	5/27 TUE	5/28 WED	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	6/3 TUE	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/10 TUE	6/8 SUN	6/11 WED
MELL SINGAPORE	009E	5/30 FRI	5/31 SAT	5/31 SAT	SKIP	6/4 WED	6/6 FRI	6/7 SAT	6/10 TUE	6/13 FRI	6/14 SAT	6/17 TUE	6/17 TUE	6/15 SUN	6/18 WED

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Opinion

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EDITORIAL

A worsening food crisis

The world's most dangerous conflicts stem from religion and ideology—tragic proof that man does not live by bread alone. But when bread is hard to get, that, too, causes unrest. And lately, it has been very expensive indeed: The World Bank estimates that global food prices have risen 83 percent in the last three years. Hence, food riots in Haiti, Egypt and Ethiopia and the use of troops in Pakistan and Thailand to protect crops and storage centers. Many countries are banning or limiting food exports. World Bank President Robert B. Zoellick says that 33 countries are at risk of food-related upheaval. Famine may revisit North Korea, parts of Africa or, disastrously for U.S. foreign policy, Afghanistan.

To many, the villain is biofuels. U.S. and European ethanol programs, intended as an antidote to climate change and an alternative to OPEC oil, stand accused of snatching food from the world's hungry. According to India's finance minister, ethanol is "a crime against humanity." And it is part of the problem. The more corn becomes ethanol, the less will be available as food for people and livestock. In the U.S. farm belt, heavy ethanol subsidies, such as a tax break of 51 cents a gallon, encourage the shift. These subsidies were already questionable, in economic terms, before the commodity crunch. That they might contribute to hardship for the world's poor is another argument for reducing them.

But ethanol's impact should not be overstated. The International Food Policy Research Institute, which is critical of ethanol, pins about 25 to 33 percent of the recent price rise on biofuels; the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization guesses about 10 to 15 percent. Most of the crisis is rooted in three other factors: drought in grain-exporting Australia; the surging price of crude oil, which raises food prices through the costs of shipping and petrochemical fertilizer; and booming demand for food in China, India and other newly prosperous areas of the developing world. These areas consume not only more staples such as rice and wheat but also more meat from animals fed on grain. This trend is here to stay—and, unlike Australian drought or oil inflation, no one should want it to go away. Lifting hundreds of millions of Asians out of poverty is a historic achievement.

To cope with the current situation, the United States must contribute its share to help the U.N. World Food Program fill a \$500 million gap in its budget. Congress should change U.S. law to let U.S. aid buy food in developing countries themselves, which could boost local producers. Looking further ahead, the U.S. and multilateral institutions must also support greater investment in farming in the developing world, including funding for research into improved crop yields, which has been in steady decline over the last 25 years.

Today's crisis could be tomorrow's opportunity. If the era of cheap food is over, higher prices might stimulate local agricultural production in Africa and other places that now depend on imports. This will be likelier if the United States and Europe finally dismantle the wasteful crop subsidies and trade barriers that fatten their farmers' bank accounts—but distort international markets at the expense of the poor.

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It's about time

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

My time is all I have
my one inheritance at birth
A thing of changing value
rarely spent for what it's worth

My time is what I trade
for everything in life worthwhile
I trade it for remembrances
of days that make me smile

My time is for my friends
with whom it's spent I wisely choose
It's here for those who lift me up
all others I refuse

My time is mine to use
but even this I do not own
It's like the wind that sets my sail
but passes on once it has blown

My time is here to live
through opportunities I seize
And now's the time to take the steps
to spend it as I please!

What's the value of your time? The game of life is all about controlling the quality and nature of the time you spend while you are here. Happiness—true happiness—is when you get to spend your time in ways that give you the best feelings and memories. Freedom is knowing you have a choice and acting on that choice in ways that empower you. Your efforts to pursue your passion are vitally important because it is one important way to exercise this right to choose how your time is spent.

I often use the metaphor of "the game" in my writings. My favorite definition of a goal is an activity that has the following elements: 1. a goal or objective, 2. specific freedoms, and 3. rules.

In the game of life, happiness is the goal, choice is your freedom, and time is the only rule. I'll add, too, that opportunity is the ball in the game of life. How you spend your time using life's opportunities is how you play the game. And in this game of life, my friend, there's no time to waste. For unlike other games, you can't reshuffle the deck and get a new hand, or ask for a "do-over."

So how are you playing the game? Are you allowing others to decide the value of your time? In your present situation, perhaps someone dictated that you'd spend your time making him or her

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT

Creating economic success for the CNMI

By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

rich, and you agreed to play along. Someone said they'd pay you a certain amount of dollars in exchange for each hour you devote to their happiness, and you agreed to play along. But, that daily ache in your heart is your passion calling out for fulfillment. It's time to take control of your time and play a different game. When you're pursuing your passion—your strategy for winning the game—you get to decide how the game will be played.

Now, if you're already pursuing your passion, the question is the same: how are you spending your days? Remember, your goal is to create and live the lifestyle of your choice. Everything you do in business, from startup, to setting your fees, hiring employees, and the very day-to-day pursuit itself is supposed to free you, not confine you. When you pursue your passion, you get to spend your days how, where and with whom you please! And there are ways to set it up from day one to do just that!

So take the steps to make this and all future days YOUR time! Yes, it's about time!!

For more tips on acting on your ideas, changing the game, and creating a passion-centered lifestyle, visit www.passionprofit.com!

Note: SaipanLiving Update:

Visit the SaipanLiving.com website to see our growing list of actual questions being asked by people all over the world who want to know what life on Saipan is really like! Choose one to answer to help with our launch!

With your help, we can create some compelling content, get the site in the top ten, and show the world a broader picture of what life is like in our little piece of paradise, beyond the sensational headlines.

Email me your perspective at questions@saipanliving.com. If you don't have an email account, you can fax it to my attention at 212 658 9232.

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!
—Walt

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 12 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

End of your retirement pension, Fund's defined benefit plan

It could be sooner than you think

First of a two-part series

If you are retired, a surviving spouse, or a government employee planning on retiring in a few years you might want to attend the presentation of a meeting planned for Friday—assuming the Legislature doesn't change the date unannounced to keep interested retirees from hearing the bad news.

There was an article that should be of great interest to all members of the Fund in the April 21 issue of this paper. The subject concerned a report on the continuing deteriorating condition of the Fund's benefit plan.

The briefing is scheduled for presentation to the Legislature at 10:30am, Friday, April 25, in the House chamber when the Fund's actuary, Buck Consultants, will address the rapid diminishment of the Fund's financial solvency, and thus the future of the member's pensions.

Of the several possibilities the consultant is expected to present based on projections resulting from the central government's suspension of its legally mandated contributions, the one possibility that caught my eye which would shorten the Fund's lifetime was based on the current government's continued failure to meet its contractual obligation under the plan—and all contributions stopping entirely. This has already been happening, particularly the continued failure of the government to make its employer's contribution to the Fund, with the severe result being the real possibility under the worst case scenario that the Fund could be broke in about eight years—or by the year 2016. How old will you be eight years from now?

This is a short time away—as the year 2016 is as close to us as the year 2000 is distant in the past. Do you remember watching the 21st century ushered in and the New Year celebrations on television as 1999 gave way to 2000? That's how close eight years in the past is to this year of 2008 and how close this year is to 2016 in the future. Time flies and, before you know it, the future becomes the past.

Of course, if you are rich and not concerned about your financial future as a retiree, then no need to attend the briefing.

However, as difficult as things are with NMI's economy at the present, if you are a retiree at least you still have some income and things can't be as bad as it is for some folks. But you should consider that during these times you had best plan for the worst—as that time might be closer than you think.

If past examples are any indication, in my judgment the central government will not do anything to protect those retirees now in the so-called "defined benefit plan." Considering past experience with CUC; the failure to deliver reliable potable water; inadequate hospital facilities, and on and on—if these are the examples for all to see and consider as the measure—look out, don't be surprised when your pension dries up. If the government doesn't have enough money to buy fuel oil for its generators it certainly isn't going to be able to step in and pay your pension if the Fund dries up.

Face it. The only money which could be available to pay pensions is that which is earned from the Fund's investment portfolio and that is rapidly being used up to make up for the shortfall payments the government is not making. That's the long and the short of it. Don't expect Uncle Sam to bail out the Fund. Your mother may love you but the U.S. government does not.

Of the several retirement fund scenarios which will be provided

By WILLIAM H. STEWART

Special to the Saipan Tribune

William H. Stewart is a forensic economist, historian, and military cartographer.



by Buck Consultants regarding the future solvency of the Fund, in my judgment the eight-year time span is the most likely result if past experience with the central government can be used as the measure—and I believe it should. But don't take my word for it; ask a member of the board of trustees.

The new defined contribution plan which replaced the former defined benefit plan at the beginning of the year is no government retirement plan to brag about unless you think the government's contribution of 4 cents on every dollar an employee saves is significant. I don't, since it won't even compensate for inflation. The new plan amounts to nothing more than each individual's separate and independent savings account. You don't really need the government's scant pittance of 4 cents on the dollar to start such a program for yourself. Has the central government and the Legislature in particular become so accustomed to cheap foreign labor that they want to apply low wages and no benefits to their government employees? Ask your representative about that.

To be continued. Next: Measuring your life expectancy against your pension and the status of the Fund's lawsuit.

Letters to the Editor

Save the movie theatre at all cost!

In 2000, Malcolm Gladwell wrote a very interesting book titled *The Tipping Point*. The subtitle is: "How little things can make a big difference". Well, rather than "Tipping Points" I like to refer to them as "Tilting Points".

If you can remember back when you were a child and you were playing on a seesaw, when you won, you were on the bottom (ground), and your adversary was on top, or up in the air. Sometimes it took more than one per-

son on the seesaw to gain the "upper edge."

There are so many "Tilting Points" in life and in society. Take Saipan, for example. During the last two years we have existed in an environ wherein just about everything around us appears to be in trouble.

Lately, the biggest issue has been CUC. We are *all* struggling with both the power outages and the thought that we may have to go lengthy periods of time with no power.

Many are concerned about CHC and both the lack of doctors and the retention of those doctors that we have; the school system, wherein some of the basic necessities (toilet paper) are lacking; and, NMC, wherein accreditation has become a significant issue.

We have, as a community, weathered all of the above, and many more issues. But then, last week, the movie theatre closed, perhaps for good. I perceive this as a "tilting point." This is literally the "straw" that finally "tilts"

our society into an abyss.

There is so little culture on island, and there are so few places in society to experience "escape" from reality. Movies provide both. And now they are gone. Sure, we can wait for the films to come out on DVDs and rent them for a fraction of the cost to go to the movies. But who would argue that it's the same? Try, if ever you can, a Friday night here, and witness the many teenagers mingling with each other. It's a "safe" place to be!

My sense is that this closing will affect more people in more ways than we realize. Children of all ages enjoy the movies. Adults go frequently, especially when there are quality films.

Losing the movie theatre may seem like a minor issue among all of the major issues facing us right now, but it is truly a "tilting point." Other businesses that are on the "edge" may find it easier to close. People, who are considering leaving island may now find it easier to make the decision to leave. This is a major "quality of life" issue.

I was chatting with a business executive a few days ago, and he hinted that a big corporation would step in and re-open the theatre. I certainly hope someone does this.

The Governor suggested raising the price of the tickets. That should certainly be on the menu of options to

See SAVE on Page 13

‘We have no choice but to vote responsibly’

I am puzzled why I feel very bad about the closing of the only movie house on island. I admit I do not go to the movies that often. So why do I feel bad about its closure?

I thought long and hard about it. I guess it's because somehow it really represents just how deep our problems are, especially the economy.

Is there anything that we can do to turn our economy around? Yes! And it's within our means. Yes! It is within

each of us. It is very clear that changes are needed everywhere.

We can bring to change our conditions by voting responsibly. It's simple. It cannot be denied that several of the elected officials are only interested in getting re-elected. Look at the power rate issue and you will see clearly what voting irresponsibly can do. Are we better off now than before the last election?

We must vote for people who have

proven track record. We must vote for someone who is not afraid of not being re-elected. We must vote for people who are honest, can be counted and puts the community's interest ahead of individuals including himself or herself. Let's face facts. There are several members of the current Legislature that being out of office will essentially make them unemployed because to begin with, they have no profession. Nothing to

fall back on. Remaining in office is therefore a livelihood, employment.

Do we need this type of individual to lead us? Can we expect quality leadership from them? So far the answer is no.

Election is very near. We need to change our thinking if we are to come out of our current dire conditions. We have no choice but to vote responsibly. We simply do not have any options anymore. Plus, voting

responsibly will assure a successful turn around.

There are plenty of examples around on how damaging it is to elect candidates that do not qualify or who see the office as an employment.

Voting responsibly is within us. It is within our means. We cannot afford not to do it.

Efrain F. Camacho
Navy Hill, Saipan

OPA's review of SHEFA

To: Michael S. Sablan, CP
Public Auditor
Office of the Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

I have received your April 7, 2008 Review ("Review") of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance ("SHEFA") Program. It is clear your office conducted a "review" of SHEFA as opposed to an "audit". It is also clear the review was conducted pursuant to a March 2007 request from Congressman Justo S. Quitugua.

SHEFA provides supplemental

financial assistance to Saipan and Northern Islands residents pursuing post-secondary education. These residents are expected to return home in order to address the mass exodus of our residents and a potential brain drain of our community. The SHEFA Board has worked diligently to ensure an honest and transparent financial aid program for all their applicants. We take great pride in the services we have and will provide and will continue to do so.

Every entity and/or person, whether they are private or public, will make mistakes. However, organiza-

tions and/or people must be given an opportunity to respond in order to ensure there are no justifications for allegations prior to being accused of misconduct.

Your office is statutorily obligated to avoid fraud, waste and abuse of public funds. I applaud the intent of OPA's enabling act, however, I am dismayed that a "review" could be conducted of our program without so much as an interview with any of the SHEFA Board or the Mayor of Saipan. It is also very disturbing and alarming to read the findings delineated in your review in the newspapers knowing

no one at SHEFA, whether it be the Board, staff or the Saipan Mayor's Office, was ever consulted on the alleged deficiencies.

Our office welcomes the services of the Office of the Public Auditor and their functions. Therefore, please be advised the SHEFA Board and the Saipan Mayor's Office will conduct their own review of every allegation outlined in your Review. In addition, we will be requesting information and documents from your office to ensure we follow the correct procedure; we will be gathering documents and information from our

offices to address any of the discrepancies in your Review; and, upon completion, we will respond accordingly to your office detailing every discrepancy in your Review with supporting documents, if any.

Thank you for your immediate attention concerning this matter. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Felicidad T. Oogumoro
Chairwoman
Board of Directors
Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.			
▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 85° ▼ 75°	▲ 85° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 75
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 77
Yap	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 72
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 72
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 75

Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 54
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲ 64 ▼ 46
Hong Kong	Showers	▲ 79 ▼ 73
Honolulu	Partly Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 71
London	Showers	▲ 59 ▼ 46
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 52
Manila	Cloudy	▲ 92 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 59
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 82 ▼ 68
New York	Partly Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 55
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▼ 59
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 63 ▼ 48
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 64 ▼ 45
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 49
Salem	Showers	▲ 48 ▼ 36
San Francisco	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 60 ▼ 48
Seoul	Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 43
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲ 66 ▼ 57
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲ 72 ▼ 56

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:58AM	6:33PM	Today	8:57AM	7:29PM
3:31AM Today	Low Tide: 1.1 Feet		Thursday	5:57AM	6:33PM
8:18AM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet		Friday	5:57AM	6:33PM
3:38PM Today	Low Tide: 0.2 Feet		Saturday	5:56AM	6:34PM
10:37PM Today	High Tide: 1.8 Feet		Sunday	5:56AM	6:34PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

ISLAND SNAPS

Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.

Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

Photos must have been taken in the last two months.

For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.

For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

DEPARTURES

Saipan-Rota

CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7

Saipan-Guam

CO 9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily

CO 9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6

CO 9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota

CO 9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily

CO 9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily

CO 9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

CO 9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

ARRIVALS

Rota-Saipan

CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6

Guam-Saipan

CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily

CO 9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily

CO 9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota

CO 9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7

CO 9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily

CO 9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily

CO 9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily

Saipan-Narita

NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya

NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily

Saipan-Osaka

NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily

Saipan-Nagoya

NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily

Saipan-Manila

CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6

CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3

Saipan-Seoul

OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1

OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7

OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7

Saipan-Busan

OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7

Guam-Manila

CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap

CO 891 6:30am 8:05am 6

Letters to the Editor

A tribute to a comrade

This is to commemorate and honor the legacy and memory of our dear coworker and friend, Jeffrey N. Maratita, fondly called Jeff. Listening to the ocean waves pounding against the rocks reminds me of the roaring sound of the boom-truck from afar driven by Jeff Maratita and Wayne Sanchez. They were the ones who operated this machine. That Jeff and Wayne are coming to the Chalan Kanoa compound (CK shop) is what the boys would say when say when hearing this sound. Sadly, Jeff will not be returning to work anymore.

Jeff has served the Mayor's Office for 18 long years. I believe that he served under three consecutive mayors. The current Honorable Mayor Juan B. Tudela has retained him again during his second term for the sole reason that Jeff has potential and is a hard worker. The CK Compound boys will vouch for his positive work attitude and diligence.

Focus energy on pressing matters

We know that in our Covenant agreement, we (CNMI) gave the U.S. federal government the right and responsibility to control our immigration programs. We know that, because of the heightened security concerns brought about by the military realignment that will affect Guam and possibly the CNMI, the Federal government feels it needs to exercise their right to properly manage our immigration policies. We know from our U.S. government class in high school that the immigration policy of a nation is inherently a "sovereign function

We're wasting time

Please, let us not grapple powers in the house to determine who should actually be in control of the generated revenues from the Rota casino. If our local laws explicitly state that the municipal council should enforce, promulgate, and be in control of any revenues made from the casino operation, so be it! Let us not waste our time defining who has the power and waste taxpayers'

Common sense laws

I wish that, as a local native guy, they don't have to charge us for being married to an alien. I mean our wives should be automatically considered U.S. citizens or residents since they are married to us, like for example the governor who is married to an alien.

SAVE

From Page 11

restore the theatre. I always feel it is much too cold inside the theatre. If I forget my sweater I have to leave. It seems to me that the temps could be raised to the mid-70s, and fans installed

Reminiscing on his humor at work, Jeff and Wayne had a signature name. They called each other "colleague" at all times instead of their birth names. Jeff would usually joke to Donald Crisostomo in the morning, which irritated Donald. He also liked to joke (horseplay) around with Pete Lucas, who always responded, "Quit it Jeff."

On the morning of April 15, 2008, an untimely tragedy befell upon us when Jeff perished while in the line of duty. He was only 37 years old, the youngest among his siblings. He had a unique characteristic. People were fond to look at his blue and green eyes. His eyes' distinction showed more when he was inebriated. He left behind a loving wife, Julie and five adoring children. His eldest son, David Peter, is now attending Northern Marianas College. Jerry Thomas is in Guam attending the Department of Defense Military School. Tzarina Mae is study-

ing in New York. The other two children are still attending primary school at San Antonio. It is hard to bear to leave a family behind, most especially his wife, Julie, who will now have to be a motherly and fatherly figure to their children. However, Jeff is spiritually watching over them from above.

Once again, we will remember our fallen comrade, Jeff N. Maratita, who accidentally died performing his work. His memory will always be with us. The Honorable Mayor Juan B. Tudela and staff offer their sincere condolences to his wife, children, and the entire Nakatsukasa and Maratita family. The Mayor's Office truly is his second family. We are all mourning his loss. Rest in peace and May the almighty Lord be with you. Adios amigo.

With heartfelt appreciation,

Ton Aguon
Dandan, Saipan

of the national government." We know that this CNMI immigration bill has a strong support of the U.S. Congress and the Bush administration.

To take on or confront the federal government on this bill with all these facts would probably be unwise. I suggest we focus our energies instead on the most immediate and pressing challenges at hand. One of them is the shrinking private sector that cannot continue to support our "big government." The feds seem to be unwilling to bail us out. They know that this situa-

The federal government, however, is offering to help us. I understand that the Office of Insular Affairs is ready, willing, and able to assist us if we are committed to make the transformation from a "public-sector-dominated economy" to a private-sector-dominated economy." I suggest we take on the feds on their other. We may yet see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Joaquin S. Manglona
Rota

mers of our island, then we might as well kill the casino on the island and put it in our back yard until we are in the same sheet of music! No wonder we can't succeed! Because we're too gullible and take too much pride in ourselves. Ombre gachong, just do it Rota!

Capt. Ben Taimanao
Ramstein, Germany

in Portland, Oregon. I know some Saipan immigration laws are crazy but I know the locals are not stupid. Common sense, guys.

Joaquin Romolor
Portland, Oregon

in strategic locations. Surely that would significantly lower the CUC bills. The hours can be reduced on most days, but certainly there should be options for children of all ages. First-run movies can be brought in weeks after they come out to reduce the rental fees.

I'm certain there are many

additional options to reduce costs and re-establish movies on Saipan. It is a morale issue, and an important one. And, it is a "tilting point" of major proportions.

**Alan Stuart Markoff, DDS,
MBA**
Chalan Kiya, Saipan



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293/6245
Saipan, MP 96950



NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING
ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE
AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE
OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, on Tuesday, April 29, 2008, at 10:00 a.m. on the application of Saipan Laulau Development, Inc. d.b.a. Laolao Bay Golf Resort, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed construction and operation of a golftel facility, including the renovation of its existing 36-hole golf course, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA's Acting Chief Executive Officer at 234-7145/7146/6293/6245, or at the CDA office at Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



ADDENDUM NO.4
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-07-015

**Grid Supply Renewable Electricity Generation
Projects for CNMI**

Date: Thursday, April 17, 2008

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying all interested proposers/ firms / agencies of the following revisions:

1. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – CANCELLED.

CUC has withdrawn this requirement to allow for wider participation in the interest of the CUC consumers and the CNMI community and to obtain the most responsive and competitive proposals.

2. QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS FROM PROPOSERS - Time Extended
to Wednesday, April 30, 2008.

3. FINAL RESPONSE TO ALL QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS BY CUC
– By Tuesday, May 6, 2008.

4. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION BY PROPOSERS – EXTENDED. One (1) original and seven (7) copies to be submitted by Friday, May 16, 2008 no later than 3:00 p.m. (Saipan Time) in a sealed envelope and addressed to the CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Procurement Division, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, Tel. 1 (670) 235 7025 – 7032 and Fax. 1 (670) 235 5138. For proposers who are based outside of CNMI, the submission shall be postmarked on the same date as the closing day for submission of the proposals and received within 7 working days (no later than May 28, 2008).

ANTHONY C. GUERRERO
Executive Director

Festivities celebrate May as Tourism Month

The Marianas Visitors Authority has scheduled a large number of events for the upcoming Tourism Month, which takes place every May.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial will sign a proclamation on Friday, April 25, at 10am proclaiming May as Tourism Month. This year's theme is "Tourism is Everybody's Business."

A new event this year will be Tourism Industry Trash Clean-up Day taking place on April 29 where the Garapan tourism district will be cleaned. This event is being supported by MVA and its tourism partners, JSTA, KTAS and MVA members. The public is invited to participate in this event. Check in is at 7:30am at American Memorial Park. The first 100 volunteers will receive a t-shirt.

Everyone is asked to participate in "Hafa Adai Tirow Way" Fridays. Every Friday in the month of May will be "Local Attire Day." Everyone in the community is asked to wear local attire including local beads,



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in last year's Ayuda Fun Run pose for a souvenir picture. The event was timed to coincide with the celebration of May As Tourism Month.

mwar mwar, shell leis and local traditional island wear to showcase the islands' culture and local hospitality to tourists on island. Tourism industry members are also encouraged to embrace this day by having their front line staff wear their favorite local attire, to emphasize the importance of the tourism industry in the community.

The 10th annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held every Saturday in May at the American Memorial Park from 6pm to 10pm beginning on May 3 and ending on May 31. This event has become a popular event for visitors and the local community. The event will feature local and international cuisine sold by participating hotel and local restaurant outlets. Visitors to the festival can also enjoy the talents of local and international performers. This will include some tourism awareness displays and competitions. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place at the main stage to signify the start of

Tourism Month and the opening of the Taste of the Marianas.

A Tourism Month Mountain Bike Race will take place on May 31. This mountain bike race will consist of short course for kids 12 and under and a fun ride for beginners. Open Division for Pros will consist of a mountain ride from the American Memorial Park up to Mt. Tapochao and back to the start and finish. All proceeds from this event will be donated to a non-profit organization chosen by MVA. MVA members are encouraged to sponsor their own employees or kids to participate in this event.

In order to further educate the local community about the importance of tourism, there will be interviews with key tourism industry personnel talking about "Why tourism is so important to you, your company and the community." There will also be a "Did you Know" radio trivia program taking place where listeners will have the opportunity to win t-shirts and tokens to the Taste of the Marianas. (MVA)

Foundation funds Yapese hospital's medical library

On the tiny island of Yap in the far western Pacific, a new medical library has been created to replace the one destroyed by Typhoon Sudal in 2004.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the health and health care of all people, worked with Guam's Ayuda Foundation to fund a project to establish this new Yap State Hospital Medical Library.

Librarians Arlene Cohen and Alice Hadley of Guam worked with Drs. Mark Durand and Thane Hancock, Medical Library Manager Charlene Laamtal and Daisy Gilmamatam, the information technology technician at Yap State Hospital, to create this new facility.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant covered the purchase of 250 books, cataloging for the books, library management software, a PowerPoint projector and screen, three computers, two printers, as well as the construction of bookcases and computer desks. Richard Sher of Gaylord, a library supply company, donated a two-drawer catalog and various library supplies to get the project started.

The project originated when Dr. Durand from Yap State Hospital contacted the Ayuda Foundation in Guam about replacing their typhoon damaged library in late 2005. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, executive director of Ayuda, contacted Arlene Cohen, a librarian for over 20 years at the University of Guam, who has worked on library resource sharing and development in Micronesia.

Cohen brought in Alice Hadley, medical librarian at the United States Naval Hospital, Guam, to provide her expertise in small medical libraries. The original grant application was sent to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in 2006. After a few rounds of tweaking and revising, the funds were made available in December 2007 for the Yap State Hospital Medical Library.

"We immediately began purchasing books and computers and arranging their shipment from the continental United States to Colonia, Yap State, in the Federated States of Micronesia," said Leon Guerrero.

Although the FSM is a foreign country, it is

also a freely associated state with the United States. Consequently, the U.S. dollar is the currency and the U.S. Postal Service costs are the same as shipping to Hawaii (although much slower). Shipping difficulties abound, as large companies have rigid requirements when shipping to a foreign country. Their postal systems often cannot provide the customs paperwork needed when utilizing the United States Postal Service and/or do not even allow the use of the system. This required special handling, adding 20 percent to the shipping cost.

"Originally, it was planned to send all books in January by surface mail, anticipating shipping time of two or three months (or more) to reach Yap; our trip was scheduled for the first week of April. However, the only shipping allowed to international locations, by the U.S. book vendor Majors, was the use of an air courier service; the books, therefore, arrived well ahead of our trip," said Leon Guerrero.

During the first week of April, Cohen and Hadley traveled to Yap to help install the medical library. While there, they assisted in setting up the actual physical library, a card catalog, and an online catalog; providing training to the library manager on using the library management software and operation of an up-to-the-minute library. Training was also presented to almost one-third of the hospital staff on using PubMed and accessing quality health information in the physical library as well as the Internet. They plan to return in November 2008 to provide follow up training for the library manager, and additional staff training on using PubMed and other online resources.

They had hoped to also establish a World Health Organization HINARI account for the hospital providing direct access to medical literature through PubMed's LinkOut feature, but this proved to not be cost effective for this small hospital. "Instead we used the \$1,000 cost of the HINARI subscription to buy more textbooks for the physical library," said Leon Guerrero.

Yap State Hospital has 36 in-patient beds and 12 doctors (including one surgeon and one anesthesiologist), and serves both the high island of Yap (population 8,000) and the inhabited outer



Participants in last year's Ayuda Fun Run pose for a souvenir picture. The event was timed to coincide with the celebration of May As Tourism Month.

islands (population 4,000). The lovely facility, built in 1979, sets in a tropical garden with flame trees brightening the yard, provides both in-patient and outpatient care.

The new medical library, centrally located near the administrative offices and the medical records room in the outpatient department wing, has an office computer for the library manager and four public access computers with filtered Internet access. The Internet access allows the staff to access online resources including a subscription to almost 70 textbooks in STAT!Ref and hundreds of full-text journals on EBSCO through subscriptions paid for by the Pacific Regional Educational Laboratory. The library has a PubMed "My NCBI" account that provides tabbed search results with tabs for English language articles, and free full-text making it easier for the staff to find articles they can use.

The library management software is Resource-Mate (R) from Jaywell Software, and inexpensive, easy to-use online catalog and circulation system designed for small libraries. Although not designed for hospital libraries, it is easily adapted for such use. One of its most attractive feature is

that it uses machine readable cataloging records and one can either import the records or use the built-in ISBN retrieval feature to search online catalog such as the National Library of Medicine and the Welch Medical Library at Johns Hopkins, among many other libraries.

While in Yap, Cohen and Hadley also assisted the Yap State Public Library Librarian to install the ResourceMate software at the newly renovated public library, also destroyed by Typhoon Sudal in 2004. In the process, they brought together Laamtal and Gilmamatam from the Yap State Hospital with Isabel Rungrad, the Yap State Public Librarian, so they could share information between the two libraries about using the software. Before the end of the visit, both librarians were not just sharing expertise, but books and library supplies as well.

Finally, in preparation for the Pacific Islands Association of Libraries and Archives annual conference to be held in Yap on Nov. 17-22, 2008, Cohen and Hadley met with the newly formed Yap State Library Association. They worked on the draft by-laws and preparations for the PIALA Conference. (PR)

Business

Retail gas hits record \$3.50 a gallon

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA	5,615.10	Down 49.10	(-0.87%)
HONG KONG	24,523.07	Down 198.60	(-0.80%)
JAKARTA	2,280.08	Down 55.81	(-2.39%)
TOKYO	13,559.02	Down 137.53	(-1.00%)
K. LUMPUR	1,280.00	Up 12.35	(+0.97%)
MANILA	2,855.75	Down 35.17	(-1.22%)
SINGAPORE	3,198.45	Down 12.44	(-0.39%)
SEOUL	1,790.57	Down 9.91	(-0.55%)
BANGKOK	605.72	Down 0.12	(-0.02%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	12,825.02	-0.19%
NASDAQ	2,408.04	+0.21%
S&P	1,388.17	+0.16%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0613
British Pound	0.5046
Canadian Dollar	1.0076
Chinese Renmbi	6.9907
Euro	0.6286
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7954
Indian Rupee	39.952
Indonesian Rupiah	9,190
Japanese Yen	103.04
Malaysian Ringgit	3.1415
New Zealand Dollar	1.258
Philippine Peso	41.915
Singapore Dollar	1.3517
South Korean Won	993.95
Swiss Franc	1.0084
Taiwan Dollar	30.252
Thailand Baht	31.495

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP)—Rising gasoline prices tightened the squeeze on drivers Monday, jumping for the first time to an average \$3.50 a gallon at filling stations across the country with no sign of relief.

Crude oil set a record for the sixth day in a row—this time closing above \$117 a barrel—after an attack on a Japanese oil tanker in the Middle East rattled investors.

“It’s killing us,” said Jean Beuens, a New York cab driver who estimated he now makes \$125 to \$150 less per month than in the fall because of costlier gas. “And it was so quick. Every day you see the price go up 5, 6, 10 cents more.”

Diesel prices at the pump also struck a record high of \$4.20 a gallon, according to AAA and the Oil Price Information Service. That’s sure to add to truckers’ costs and drive up the price of food, clothing and other goods shipped by truck.

“You and I are going to pay more,” said Bob Costello, chief economist of American Trucking Associations. “Exactly how much ... I can’t tell you, but it’s got to show up.”

Gasoline and diesel prices are expected to keep climbing as they



A Valero customer pumps gas at a station in Palo Alto, Calif., Monday, April 21, 2008.

AP

trace the path of crude. Oil prices are charging ahead along with a host of commodities that are enticing speculators seeking hedges against a weakening dollar.

Light, sweet crude for May delivery rose to a record \$117.76 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange before settling at \$117.48, up 79 cents from Friday’s close.

Gasoline and diesel prices are expected to keep climbing as they

climb over the weekend and are up 23 percent from a year ago. Drivers in New Jersey are paying the least, while drivers in California pay the most, \$3.86 a gallon for regular unleaded.

The Energy Department predicted earlier this month that monthly average gasoline price will peak at more than \$3.60 per gallon in June and could even reach \$4.

“It’s uncharted territory,” said Tom Kloza of the Oil Price Information Service, Wall, N.J. “I don’t think we’re done, but I have to believe we’re in the eighth or ninth inning” of price increases.

The higher prices are already prompting some drivers to cut back. In New York, Elvis Ragbir and Anthony Winckler said they are driving less and taking the subway more.

Indicted Samsung chairman resigns

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

Embattled Samsung Group Chairman Lee Kun-hee said Tuesday he was stepping down from his post at the top of South Korea’s biggest conglomerate following his indictment on tax evasion charges.

“I today have decided to resign from the post of chairman of Samsung Group,” Lee told a news conference less than one week after he was indicted following a special independent counsel investigation into the conglomerate’s operations.

“We, including myself, have caused troubles to the nation with the special probe,” Lee said. “I deeply apologize for that, and I’ll take full responsibility for everything, both legally and morally.”

Stocks mixed after banks’ profit falls short

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street had a mixed performance Monday as investors regained a cautious stance after disappointing news from Bank of America Corp. and Midwest bank National City Corp., and after another record-breaking tear in oil prices.

Investors were clearly uneasy about extending last week’s big

After Lee spoke, Vice Chairman Lee Hak-soo, considered the chairman’s closest confidante, also announced his resignation as well as that of Lee Jae-yong, the chairman’s son and heir who is an executive at Samsung Electronics Co.

Lee, the vice chairman, said Lee Soo-bin, chairman of Samsung Life Insurance, would represent Samsung Group externally. It was not immediately clear if the post of group chairman would remain vacant or eventually be filled.

Special prosecutors Thursday indicted Lee on charges of evading 112.8 billion won (\$113 million) in taxes, ending a three-month probe in the family-run conglomerate prompted by allegations of wrongdoing by a former Samsung lawyer.

gains after Bank of America said its first-quarter earnings fell 77 percent on write-downs and widening credit losses. BofA’s report followed a week in which big-name companies in general turned in better-than-expected numbers for the first quarter, helping the major stock indexes to gains of more than 4 percent.



Lee



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works

2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS DPWO8-RFQ-019

702 CIP PROJECT MANAGERS FOR SAIPAN, TINIAN, AND ROTA

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through Secretary of the Department of Public Works, are soliciting sealed Statements of Qualifications from qualified individuals to serve as one of three 702 CIP Project Manager for each CNMI District (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota)

The Project Manager will be retained as an independent contractor under the general supervision of the Secretary of Public Works or his designee. The Project Manager will be responsible for the coordination and management of a designated number of, Architectural and Engineering (A/E) design contracts, Construction Management or Construction in Administration contracts, as well as Construction Contracts for new facilities and/or the renovation of existing facilities in the CNMI. Project management will be limited to those capital improvement projects that funded under Section 702 of the Covenant between the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands. Further, the selected Individual(s) or Firm(s) shall agree not to bid and/or propose in any future Architectural & Engineering and/or Construction Management services funded with the 702 Covenant funds, in whole or in part, while on an active contract with the Contracting Officer.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 3-103 of the regulations. Preference is available to local proposers in accordance with Public Law 15-95.

The REvised Scope of Work will be available on or after, April 9, 2008 at the DPW Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Building, Saipan. No Pre-Proposal Conference is scheduled for this RFQ. A non-refundable payment of Fifty Dollars (US\$50.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. Questions regarding this RFQ must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor Oleai Commercial Building, Saipan, or faxed to (670) 234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time April 24, 2008.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated and scored based on the following technical merit:

1. Past experience as a Project Manager - 40%
2. Current workload of the individual and ability to commit to the scope of work - 40%
3. Proposed project team organized and individual qualifications including inspectors to participate as part of the team (15%)
4. References (5%) - Give the name, address, and telephone number of references for a minimum of four (4) projects stated in your Past Experience

Price is also a factor that will be considered in addition to the technical merit of proposals. As proposals become more equal in technical merit the importance of price will increase. The government reserves the right to make an award to other than the lowest priced proposal.

Discussions will be held with those determined reasonably susceptible of being selected for award of a contract for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Those short-listed proposers will be afforded an opportunity to submit a “best and final offer”. Each CNMI District (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota) will be awarded a Project Manager based on the complexity of projects assigned and qualification evaluation of each proposer. The successful proposers may be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Proposals must be sealed and marked “DPWO8-RFQ-019”. Proposers may indicate the preferred district he/she prefers to be a PM, however, technical merit evaluation ratings shall supersede such preference. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed Statements of Qualifications must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 30, 2008. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their statements by submitting a Notice of Intent to Submit Statements of Qualifications. Notices of Intent to Submit Statements of Qualifications must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 30, 2008 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, April 30, 2008 AND must be received no later than May 9, 2008. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

This project is funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA) with local matching fund, provided by the CNMI Government. Contract award is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

All responses to this RFQ should take into account all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Acting, Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLON
Director, Procurement & Supply

Source: WSJ
managing editor
stepping down

NEW YORK (AP)—The top editor of The Wall Street Journal is planning to step down after less than a year on the job and four months after the paper was taken over by Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp., according to a person familiar with the situation.

The reasons for Marcus Brauchli’s departure weren’t immediately clear, but Time magazine’s Web site, which first reported the news late Monday, said Brauchli had tried to find a “middle path” between the paper’s old guard and Murdoch’s new vision for the paper.

Time said the departure could be announced as early as Tuesday.

The person familiar with the situation, who asked not to be named since the decision had not yet been made public, said Brauchli was expected to stay on with the company in a yet-to-be-determined role.

Nation

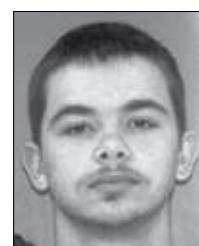
Bomb plot student's parents sought counseling for him

CHESTERFIELD, S.C. (AP)—A teenager accused of plotting to bomb his high school is a straight-A student whose parents sought help from mental health experts when he slammed his head into a wall last week, authorities said Monday.

Ryan Schallenberger's parents took him to a hospital three days before his Saturday ar-

rest after he made a 4-inch indentation in the wallboard, prosecutor Jay Hodge said at a court hearing.

Schallenberger, 18, was not badly injured, but his parents also called a local mental health clinic that of-



Schallenberger

spokesman for the clinic would not confirm or deny any contact with the family, citing state law.

Hodge said he plans to ask that Schallenberger undergo a mental evaluation at the teenager's

Schallenberger was arrested after his parents called police because he had ordered 10 pounds of ammonium nitrate, an explosive commonly used as fertilizer and was employed in the deadly 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

Authorities checked the school for bombs over the weekend and on Monday stu-

dents walked through newly installed metal detectors and past law officers. Still, officials said 60 percent of the school's 544 students stayed home.

The quiet teenager with a slight build and a wispy mustache had apparently been planning the potentially deadly attack for months, authorities said.

"This kid had the intellect and the means and the materials to carry it out," Hodge said.

Police said they discovered a hate-filled journal lauding the Columbine killers, an audiotape to be played after he perished during his rampage and a year's worth of plans for the bombing that included a hand-drawn map of the school.

Clinton reaches for win in Pennsylvania

BLUE BELL, Pa. (AP)—Hillary Rodham Clinton invoked Pearl Harbor, the Berlin Wall and Osama bin Laden as she reached for a victory in Pennsylvania's Democratic presidential primary to recharge her comeback effort.

Barack Obama said she would probably win but he hoped to keep it close in Tuesday's voting.

Clinton made her closing arguments Monday for the biggest primary left on the election schedule, running an ad with historic images to ask voters whom they would trust most in the White House during a time of trouble. It's the same tactic she used successfully in the "3 a.m." ad she aired in the closing days of the Ohio and Texas contests last month.

It was the first time a Democratic candidate has used bin Laden in a campaign commercial in the 2008 race for the White House. The terrorist appears along with images from the

stock market crash, the bombing at Pearl Harbor, the Soviet threat, the collapse of the Berlin Wall and Hurricane Katrina as an announcer tells voters the political contest is for "the most important job in the world."

"You need to be ready for anything, especially now, with two wars, oil prices skyrocketing and an economy in crisis. Harry Truman said it best, 'If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen.' Who do you think has what it takes?" the announcer says at the end, as Clinton appears on screen.

Obama spokesman Bill Burton said the ad "plays the politics of fear." And he said Clinton is to blame for allowing bin Laden to escape by supporting war in Iraq and diverting the U.S. military.

"It's ironic that she would borrow the president's tactics in her own campaign and invoke bin Laden to score political points," Burton said.

Leaving the negative talk to aides, Obama himself tried to end on a positive note after days of escalating accusations against Clinton. He didn't criticize his rival as he spoke with voters at an outdoor plaza in suburban Philadelphia, where tulips and daffodils bloomed and children played in the background.

"I thought this would be a nice change of pace," Obama said. A bank of TV cameras captured the soft images—early enough in the day to ensure that voters would see the images on Philadelphia newscasts the night before the primary.

Pennsylvania's demographics suit Clinton. The state has a higher median age, a higher percentage of whites, a lower median household income and fewer bachelor's degrees than the country overall. These are the voters—working-class whites and voters older than 50—who have flocked to her in past contests.



Former President Bill Clinton, center, joins his wife, Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, D-N.Y., and daughter Chelsea on stage at the conclusion of a campaign rally on the campus of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, Monday, April 21, 2008. AP

DNA samples taken from polygamists' kids

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Using cotton swabs and cameras, lab technicians began taking DNA samples Monday from hundreds of children and mothers—many in long, pioneer-style dresses—in hopes of sorting out the tangled family relationships within the West Texas polygamist sect.

A judge ordered last week that the genetic material be taken to help determine which children belong to which parents.

Authorities need to figure

that out before they begin custody hearings to determine which children may have been abused and need to be permanently removed from the sect compound in Eldorado, and which ones can be safely returned to the fold.

State social workers have complained that over the past few weeks, sect members have offered different names and ages. Also, the children refer to all of their fathers' wives as their "mothers," and all men in their

families as "uncles."

The testing went on behind closed doors at the crowded coliseum where the children seized in the raid earlier this month on the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints are staying.

The collecting of DNA is likely to take 10 technicians most of the week, and it will be a month or more before the results are available, said Janiece Rolfe, a spokeswoman for the Texas attorney general's office.

Stephen Hawking: Alien but primitive life likely

WASHINGTON (AP)—Famed astrophysicist Stephen Hawking has been thinking a lot about the cosmic question, "Are we alone?" The answer is probably not, he says.

If there is life elsewhere in the universe, Hawking asks why haven't we stumbled onto some alien broadcasts in space, maybe something like "alien quiz shows?"

Hawking's comments were part of a lecture at George Wash-

ington University on Monday in honor of NASA's 50th anniversary. He theorized that there are possible answers to whether there is extraterrestrial life.

One option is that there likely isn't life elsewhere. Or maybe there is intelligent life elsewhere, but when it gets smart enough to send signals into space, it also is smart enough to make destructive nuclear weapons.

Hawking said he prefers the third option:

"Primitive life is very common and intelligent life is fairly rare," he then quickly added: "Some would say it has yet to occur on earth."

So should you worry about aliens? Alien abduction claims come from "weirdos" and are unlikely. However, because alien life might not have DNA like us, Hawking warned: "Watch out if you would meet an alien. You could be infected with a disease with which you have no resistance."

ACROSS THE NATION

36 shootings, 9 homicides reported in Chicago over weekend

CHICAGO (AP)—An outburst of gunfire rattled the city during the weekend, with at least nine people killed in 36 separate acts of violence. The shootings were reported from Friday until Monday morning, police spokeswoman Monique Bond said Monday. They included gang shootings, drive-by attacks, and even one case in which someone used an AK-47 to shoot up a plumbing supply store. Then on Monday evening, a man was shot to death and three other people were wounded in a robbery attempt at a McDonald's, police said. Authorities did not immediately say whether any of the weekend shootings were thought to be related. Police Superintendent Jody Weis blamed an excess of guns and gangs.

10-year term for trying to bring military secrets to China

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—The younger brother of an imprisoned Chinese-American engineer has been sentenced to 10 years in federal prison in a family conspiracy to export defense technology to China. U.S. District Judge Cormac Carney sentenced Tai Mak (Tie Mak) on Monday in California. His 67-year-old brother Chi Mak (Chee Mak) was sentenced to 24 1/2 years in prison last month. Tai Mak and his wife were arrested by FBI agents at Los Angeles International Airport in 2005 as they were heading to China with encrypted CDs that contained sensitive documents on U.S. naval technologies. Prosecutors say Chi Mak stole the information

Magnitude-4.0 aftershock reported from Midwest earthquake

WEST SALEM, Ill. (AP)—More aftershocks shook Southern Illinois on Monday, three days after a magnitude 5.2 quake rattled nerves across the region. The U.S. Geological Survey said a total of 22 aftershocks had been recorded since last week's tremor that was centered deep beneath the surface near West Salem. They included one just before 12:40 a.m. Monday that registered magnitude 4.0 and had its epicenter northwest of Mount Carmel. That tremor was initially reported as 4.5 but was downgraded during the day. The strongest aftershock registered magnitude 4.6 about 5 1/2 hours after the original quake Friday morning.

More guilty verdicts in LA murder-for-profit scheme

LOS ANGELES (AP)—An elderly woman was convicted Monday of two more counts in a scheme to kill homeless men to cash in on insurance payouts. Olga Rutterschmidt, 75, was convicted of first-degree murder and conspiracy to murder for financial gain in the death of Paul Vados, 73. Last week, she was convicted of murder and conspiracy in the death of Kenneth McDavid, 50. The jury returned to deliberations Monday after bringing in an alternate to replace a juror who had to leave on a trip. Co-defendant Helen Golay, 77, was convicted of both murders and conspiracy last week.

Asia

Olympic torch relay draws small protests in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The Olympic flame was carried through blistering sun, torrential rain and isolated protests in Malaysia on Monday, completing another segment of its global relay that has become a magnet for demonstrations against China.

A Japanese man, his sister and her 5-year-old son were heckled and roughed up by Chinese nationals when they unfurled a Tibetan flag before the start of the heavily guarded relay in Kuala Lumpur.

Police detained the Japanese but released them without charges after about six hours. The Chinese were not detained.

At one point in the relay, a Western man wearing a T-shirt reading "Beijing Torches Human Rights" rushed forward shouting

"Shame, shame, shame." He was hustled away by police but not arrested. A British woman wearing a "Free Tibet" T-shirt and a foreign Buddhist monk were also detained and later released.

Criticism of China's human rights record has turned the Olympic torch run ahead of the Aug. 8-24 Beijing Olympics into one of the most contentious in recent history.

Protests dogged the relay during its stops in Ancient Olympia, Greece, Paris, London and San Francisco, with demonstrators protesting China's crackdown on anti-government riots in Tibet.

Security concerns prompted authorities in Indonesia, Australia and Japan—the torch's upcoming stops—to change or shorten their routes.

6 Thais to be charged in migrant deaths in truck

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Six Thai nationals will be charged with death by negligence after 54 illegal Myanmar migrants suffocated while being smuggled through Thailand in a tiny, locked truck, police said Monday.

The 54 dead were among some 120 job seekers from Myanmar crammed inside the truck, which was abandoned by the driver on April 10 when he noticed passengers dying in the back.

The migrants began suffocating when the air conditioning failed in the vehicle, normally used for transporting seafood.

The migrants had been seeking jobs in the booming resort area of Phuket after being smuggled by boat from their country into the Thai port of Ranong on the Andaman Sea.

Immigration police commander Lt. Gen. Chatthawal Suksomjit said the crime of causing death by negligence carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in jail for each person that died.

Not enough evidence exists yet to prosecute the six people—including the truck's driver—for human trafficking, he said.

Among the 66 survivors, 50 were convicted of illegal entry into Thailand and were still being held. Two were not charged because poor health kept them hospitalized, and 14 were minors who will be returned to Myanmar.

Pakistan frees pro-Taliban leader

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan freed a pro-Taliban cleric and quickly signed an accord with his hard-line group Monday, the first major step by the new government to talk peace with Islamic militants and break with President Pervez Musharraf's policy of using force.

The day's developments began with the release of Sufi Muhammad, who is believed in his 70s, after more than five years in custody following his dispatch of thousands of followers to fight in Afghanistan.

A few hours later, the government of North West Frontier Province said Muhammad's group signed a pact renouncing violence in return for being allowed to peacefully campaign for Islamic law. Security forces have the right to "act against" any extremists who attack the government.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Terror leaders in Indonesia get prison terms

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Two leaders of the feared Southeast Asian terror network Jemaah Islamiyah were sentenced Monday to 15 years in jail, dealing yet another blow to the group blamed for a string of deadly bombings in Indonesia. Abu Dujana, the group's military commander, and Zarkasih, who acted briefly as its caretaker leader, were found guilty of conspiracy to commit terrorist attacks, harboring fugitives and stockpiling illegal arms. The rulings were handed down in separate, lengthy trials at the South Jakarta District Court.

Japan lawmakers visit Tokyo war shrine

TOKYO (AP)—Dozens of Japanese lawmakers paid respects Tuesday at a war shrine seen by Asian neighbors as an antagonistic symbol of Tokyo's militaristic past, one day after leaders of Japan and South Korea urged an end to disputes over their history. Eight top government officials and more than 150 lawmakers prayed at the Yasukuni Shrine, which reveres 2.5 million war dead, including executed war criminals, said organizer Yoshinobu Shimamura. Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda did not attend, but such visits have long strained Tokyo's relations with some other countries who say the action defends Japan's pre-1945 militarism.

RP military hands reward to tipster in militant's arrest

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine military officials have given a reward to a tipster who helped soldiers arrest an Islamic militant wanted for kidnapping Americans. Lt. Gen. Nelson Allaga, head of the Western Mindanao Command, turned over 500,000 pesos (US\$11,900) to the unidentified informant at Monday's ceremony in southern Zamboanga city. Allaga says the tipster provided information that led to the capture last year of Omar Jakarain Ibno—alias Abu Mogera—an alleged bomb expert trained by militants from Southeast Asian terror network Jemaah Islamiyah. Police have said his arrest with two other militants disrupted plots to bomb tourist and shopping centers in the volatile southern Philippines.

'Milkshake murder' trial continues in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP)—An American woman who gave her husband a strawberry milkshake spiked with drugs before beating him to death was only trying to defend herself from the baseball bat-wielding man in their luxury flat in Hong Kong, a defense attorney said Monday. The defendant, Nancy Kissel, has spent the past week trying to appeal the 2005 verdict that got her sentenced to life for what's widely known in Hong Kong as the "milkshake murder." Kissel has said she struck her investment banker husband, Robert, with a metal ornament when he was attacking her with a baseball bat in 2003. Her lawyer, Gerard McCoy, said Monday evidence of the bat was left on the metal ornament, which had been "distorted and damaged by a cylindrical shape object."

World



In this photo released by The Royal Bahamas Defense Force, Coast Guard officers carry the body of one of the Haitian migrants who died after their boat sank off Nassau, Bahamas, Sunday, April 20, 2008. AP

Haitian migrants drown off Bahamas

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP)—Haitians fleeing their impoverished homeland met tragedy when their boat went down off the Bahamas, killing at least 20 people and leaving only three known survivors, including an alleged migrant smuggler, authorities said Monday.

Survivors said the boat was carrying 24 people when it capsized Saturday night, according to U.S. Coast Guard spokesman Luis Diaz in Miami. Just before dawn Sunday, fishermen heard screams.

Volunteers searched for bodies, tying life preservers onto

them so they could be recovered by the U.S. Coast Guard, said Chris Lloyd of the Bahamas Air Sea Rescue Association.

"We recovered as many as we could," Lloyd said.

The migrants appeared to be aiming for U.S. shores. The accident happened less than 150 miles (240 kilometers) from Miami, said Chief Petty Officer Ralph McKinney of the Royal Bahamas Defense Force. The boat had set out from Nassau and was supposed to stop in Bimini en route to Florida, he said.

Two Haitian survivors—a man and a woman—were being treated at a Nassau hospital for dehydration. The third survivor, a Honduran marine mechanic, was taken into police custody as authorities investigate smuggling allegations, McKinney said.

The two Haitian survivors identified the Honduran as the sunken vessel's captain, Lloyd said.

Haitian Ambassador Louis Harold Joseph said he had not yet received confirmation that everyone who died was Haitian. But he expressed doubt that the voyage was connected to recent Haitian food riots in which at least seven people died.

Iraqi leader calls for Arab support

BAGHDAD (AP)—Iraq's prime minister appealed Monday for support from his Arab neighbors, urging them to open embassies and forgive Iraqi debts as his government tries to crack down on Shiite militias in a crucial power struggle.

But the government plea came as militia leaders warned more violence could await.

Followers of Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, leader of the biggest militia, said they could

widen the battles with the government—even asking supporters for blood donations to aid fighters injured during weeks of urban clashes.

With tension rising, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki flew to Kuwait for a meeting Tuesday of Iraq's neighbors to discuss ways they can help Iraq's Shiite-led government as it confronts both

Shiite militias and Sunni extremists including al-Qaida in Iraq.

Al-Maliki said he will be look-

ing for tangible support, including relief from Iraq's \$67 billion foreign debt—most of it owed to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

"There are countries that support the political process and are opening embassies here. We need the others to open embassies here, too," al-Maliki told reporters.

The direct appeal to Arab heavyweights highlights the regional dilemma posed by Iraq.

boat in Gulf of Aden

urge stronger maritime patrols in high-risk areas.

In the latest incidents, the suspected pirate ship fired on the Japanese tanker in the Gulf of Aden, ripping a one-inch hole in the ship that caused the fuel to leak, officials said. The attack help send crude oil prices to a new record, spiking above \$117 a barrel Monday before falling back slightly.

Pirates attack Japanese tanker, Spanish

MADRID, Spain (AP)—Pirates in the lawless Gulf of Aden fired on a Japanese oil tanker Monday, unleashing hundreds of gallons of fuel into the sea, a day after a Spanish tuna boat was hijacked using rocket-propelled grenades.

The attacks highlight an alarming increase in piracy by well-armed bandits, prompting international demands for better

protection of the world's shipping lanes.

France plans to present a proposal at the United Nations that would create an international "right of pursuit" allowing countries to chase pirates when they try to flee into territorial waters, the French Foreign Ministry said.

The proposal, which comes after a French luxury yacht was hijacked this month, would also

UN agency criticizes Greek asylum practices

GENEVA (AP)—The United Nations has sharply criticized Greece for its treatment of asylum applicants and its rate of approval of asylum claims of less than 1 percent, urging the country to reform its practices.

The office of the U.N. High

Commissioner for Refugees said Monday that the Greek system did not fairly evaluate asylum claims.

The refugee agency has called on European nations to "refrain from returning asylum seekers to Greece." The

Campus Life

Catching problems early, schools try to avoid special ed

TIGARD, Ore. (AP)—When her son Dylan was just 6 years old, Kristen Wahlmeier noticed that he had to be bribed to read: A surfing trip here or a pair of new shoes there before he'd pick up a book.

Worried as she watched him struggle, a gnawing fear crept into her stomach: Her only son, with big blue eyes and the jones for Star Wars, might be headed for a special education classroom.

Instead, teachers at his suburban Portland school intervened immediately, putting him into extra reading and vocabulary tutoring every day before school. It paid off.

Now, officials in districts across the country are rapidly adopting similar early intervention programs, hoping that steering a child away from expensive special education classes later will pay off for them, too, in cost savings.

"It's a chance to catch up, if you can have this instruction. We are identifying kids earlier and better than we used to," said Karen Twain, principal at Dylan's school, Metzger Elementary.

The adoption of these programs comes at a time when districts have been trying to also cut down "overidentification"—too many poor and minority kids being shunted off to special education who don't need to be there.

Not everyone is so pleased about the early help, known as "response to intervention" or RTI.



Third grader Dylan Wahlmeier, a student at Metzger Elementary School raises his hand during class Thursday, March 20, 2008 in Tigard, Ore.

Some parents worry that children with learning disabilities will have to wait too long to get the intensive help they need. Academics and administrators fear the trend is taking off too quickly, without enough research to back up its surge.

"RTI is a runaway train—it's an explosion right now in the entire field of education," said Wayne Sailor, a professor of special education at the University of Kansas.

Traditionally, children haven't been identified for special education until third or

fourth grade. They end up costing roughly twice as much, or about \$12,000 a year, to educate an average student, including about \$11 billion in federal dollars every year.

But researchers, including some influential with federal education officials, have long argued that students were getting stuck in special education not because of biological disabilities, but because of environmental factors.

They say their parents may have not read to them enough or allowed the children to stay

home from school too often.

RTI was launched as a response, finding a foothold nearly a decade ago in school districts in Oregon and Iowa.

The idea is to screen children as early as kindergarten for any sign that they are falling behind their peers in basic subjects, like reading and math. Teachers keep careful records, and children like Dylan get intensive extra instruction.

The tutoring intensifies if there's no improvement. If problems persist, they go into traditional special education.

The findings were criticized by national groups representing community colleges and financial aid administrators, as well as people who work at some of the colleges. They note community colleges are usually far

In Virginia, special education numbers statewide dipped by about 4,000 students this year, which officials attribute at least partly to increasing use of early interventions.

And in Oklahoma, where 15 school districts are piloting the program, some schools reported a 50 percent decrease in the number of special education referrals between 2006 and 2007.

The Bush administration is backing RTI, allowing districts to spend up to 15 percent of the money they receive for special education on the program, and setting aside \$14 million in federal dollars to help states implement it.

Believers swear by the method.

Brad McDuffee, principal of Highland Park Elementary School in San Bernardino, Calif., said that in the three years that RTI has been in place at his school, the special education population has been cut in half.

It's now just seven percent, about half of the roughly 13 percent national average, even though about 87 percent of his students come from poorer families.

Hawaii decided to begin using RTI after the only elementary school on the island of Lanai was routinely putting more than 20 percent of students into special education, said Debbie Farmer, who coordinates special education for the state.

"Identifying kids that need not be identified is the worst

thing," Farmer said.

She said she's encountered some resistance as Hawaii phases in the new program, from teachers who are suspicious that the program is just another education fad and from parents who worry that their children won't get the help they need.

Pat Lillie, a North Carolina mother whose sons were both in special education programs, said parents are worried about all the questions they say have gone unanswered, as school districts have rushed to adopt RTI.

"There really are no guidelines for how long a child can remain in RTI before they are moved into evaluation, but we hear from some parents that it can take a long, long time," said Lillie, who sits on the board of the Learning Disabilities Association of America.

It will take the average school about three years to get the early intervention system in place, Sailor said, including intensive training for classroom teachers who need to learn how to evaluate and identify students who need help.

And in the end, he said, it might not save schools much money, since they'll be spending more on early interventions, even if fewer children wind up in special education down the line.

For the Wahlmeiers, at least, the program worked.

"Before, he was definitely avoiding reading; he'd do anything to get out of it," Kristen Wahlmeier said. "Now, in the evenings, he'll just pick up a book."

Federal loans not an option for many junior college students

By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER

For students who need to borrow for college, federal loans are almost always the best deal. But a new study finds that more than 1 million community college students - a disproportionate number of them minorities - can't get such loans because their schools decline to participate in the federal loan program.

These community colleges have their reasons - including trying to protect students from borrowing too heavily.

But the report, to be released Thursday by the California-based Project on Student Debt, argues that such schools are denying students an important benefit. It said students who can't get federal loans may have to work more or take on private loans and credit card debt.

The findings were criticized by national groups representing community colleges and financial aid administrators, as well as people who work at some of the colleges. They note community colleges are usually far

cheaper than four-year schools, so it's reasonable for some schools to tell students they shouldn't be borrowing.

"I'm really concerned about default rates, and ... that students would see the dollar signs and not use it for educational purposes and maybe get in over their heads," said Brenda DiSorbo, director of financial aid for all of the Central Georgia Technical College.

The report comes at time of intense focus on federal aid programs like subsidized and unsubsidized Stafford loans, which together accounted for about \$50 billion in financial aid last year.

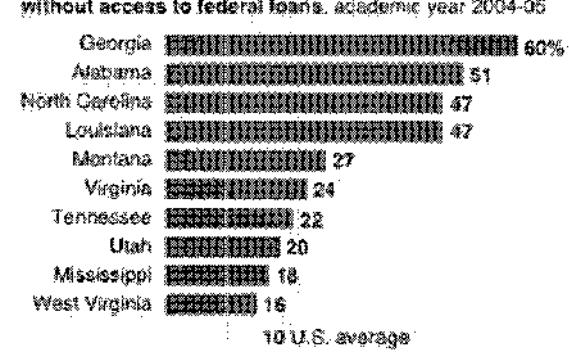
The credit crisis and subsidy cuts have forced dozens of lenders and guarantors out of the federally backed loan business, and the government is drawing up plans to ensure students can get such loans for school next fall.

So far, there's no evidence eligible students won't be able to secure loans because of the credit crunch. But this new report highlights students who

Community college aid denied

A new report shows at least 60 percent of community college students in Georgia were denied access to federal loans because of the schools they attended.

States with highest percentage of community college students without access to federal loans, academic year 2004-05



can't get federal loans because of the school they attend.

Affected students amount to just one in 10 community college students nationwide, but at least 47 percent of students in four states - Georgia, Alabama, North Carolina and Louisiana.

In Montana, 95 percent of white community college students attend schools where they can get federal loans, compared with just 8 percent

of American Indians.

In Tennessee, the figure is 87 percent for white community college students but just 45 percent for blacks. Nationally, black community college students are more than twice as likely as whites to attend schools that don't offer federal loans.

Low-income students "are the students who have the most to gain from having access to

the federal loan program," said Bob Shireman, executive director of the Institute for College Access and Success, which operates the Project on Student Debt. "The rates are low and fixed. There's no credit check."

Nationally, community college tuition and fees average \$2,361 per year, according to the College Board - about one-third what public four-year colleges cost. After receiving aid, most community college students pay only a few hundred dollars for classes, and often use leftover aid from Pell Grants for things like books.

At South Texas College in McAllen, financial aid Director Miguel Carranza said he can't be sure but he believes few students take out private loans. Offering federal loans would be unnecessary and potentially harmful.

"I come from a four-year institution - that's what you see there," he said. "You make the loans available, and whatever they qualify for, it's not enough."

But despite rising concerns

about student debt, sometimes loans are a better option if they help students work less at outside jobs and finish a degree or transfer. At community colleges that offer federal loans, about 10 percent of students use them.

"Denying them federal loans does not prevent them from borrowing, it just forces them to take out other loans that are more expensive," Shireman said.

Colleges' concerns are understandable. If they are sanctioned by the government for disbursing too many loans that default, they can lose access to all federal aid programs - a disaster for any community college. But Shireman believes community colleges that have opted out of the loan program overstate the risk of such punishment.

In a statement, the American Association of Community Colleges said concerns about student debt are why some schools don't participate - not fear of being sanctioned.

But, it added, "institutional review of their policies in this area could be timely."

Life & Style

City dogs discovering sheep, cattle, hidden talent

VINCENT, Calif. (AP)—The sun is shining, the fields are clear, and the sheep—a jittery trio of fluff—are just getting comfortable.

Suckers.

Selkie, a border collie recovering from a tennis ball addiction, gets her cue. She cuts a wide curve around the field, hunches low and creeps in. Bleats of protest are useless. The sheep stiffen and get moving.

It's a good day to be a dog.

Selkie isn't really a stock dog but she plays one at Drummond Ranch, which isn't really a livestock ranch, but a 40-acre haven an hour outside Los Angeles. There, city dogs escape their leash-and-lounge existence and learn to get in touch with their inner herder.

The ranch is part of a trend that mixes training techniques, a back-to-basics ethos and a hint of dog (and human) therapy.

"It really, really seems to center the dog and give the dog a sense of confidence and fulfillment, a good assertiveness, a good energy," said ranch owner Janna Duncan, who has taught dozens of canines and their owners the art of moving livestock.

"It's almost as if the dog needs a job. And when they discover, 'This is what my job is



A dog herds a group of cattle at Drummond Ranch in Acton, Calif., Tuesday, March 18, 2008. AP

supposed to be,' then everything falls into place."

The American Kennel Club says new herding clubs are popping up across the country, although it does not track exact numbers. Nearly 200 clubs held herding trials last year. More than 10,000 dogs competed, a roughly 10 percent increase over 2006.

Owners describe the practice as an antidote to tighter leash laws and disappearing dog-friendly spaces in U.S. cities. They talk of their dogs'

first time in the arena with the pride and amazement usually reserved for describing a child's first day at kindergarten. Many also acknowledge that herding was a last resort.

"I'd been through about three trainers and was getting nowhere," said Ann Preston, patting her panting, post-workout Selkie. "I had two vets tell me she was stark-raging mad."

Preston acknowledges Selkie's problem was really an owner problem. As a border collie, she was bred to herd. She

needed mental stimulation and as well as a physical workout. As a couch companion for Preston, a 65-year-old sculptor, she was a poor match.

"I'm gentle. I just want to play and cuddle my dog and scratch its tummy and, you know, have my face licked and maybe my feet licked on occasion," she said.

Selkie wasn't interested. She was sensitive to noise, pushy and obsessive. She wanted her ball thrown. All day. And tomorrow.

Experts say the dog-owner mismatch is common. People spend too little time researching a breed's temperament and habits before choosing their family's new addition. A fluffy St. Bernard, for example, is a working breed that may protect your kids—against the letter carrier. Then you've got a lawsuit.

Preston said she's lucky she found Drummond Ranch and Selkie found sheep. One look and the light bulb went on, Preston said.

Duncan's clientele isn't limited to the traditional herding breeds. She's trained huskies, Labrador retrievers, even a four-pound Yorkie from Malibu.

On a recent morning, a hulking Bernese mountain dog named Kerry thumped around an arena cajoling the sheep on cue to Duncan's screeching whistles and clipped calls.

Each breed, Duncan explained, has its own persuasion technique.

Referring to Kerry, she said, "The guardian dogs get to know their flock. They befriend the sheep and the sheep feel safe. They'll follow them anywhere."

But not all breeds have such charisma.

Trainers use an instinct test to suss out the herders from the non-

herders. Placed in a small pen with sheep and a trainer, the dogs' reactions are evaluated for style, temperament, responsiveness to commands and use of force.

At Drummond Ranch, those deemed trainable continue with classes. A four-week series cost \$165.

Carol Delsman oversees the American Kennel Club's herding program from her cattle ranch in Baker City, in rural northeastern Oregon. Delsman is happy to see urbanites discovering their dogs' hidden talents but considers her primary job preserving a lost art.

Herding breeds have spent centuries as companions for shepherds and ranchers. In Scotland and England, border collies are revered for their ability to disappear into the hills and come back with a herd unharmed.

"But as people decide not to have kids but to have dogs, breeds actually get altered. If we alter a breed too much, it can't do what it was bred to do," Delsman said.

The challenge is less about training dogs to handle sheep than about coaching humans to properly handle their dogs, she says. The dogs already know how to herd; they just need to learn to do it on command.

Disney unveils nature film unit after the success of 'Penguins'

BURBANK, Calif. (AP)—Following the box office success of "March of the Penguins," The Walt Disney Co. said Monday it launched a new film production unit called Disneynature to produce and distribute documentary films through at least 2012.

The 2005 documentary about penguin families surviving in Antarctica grossed \$127 million at the global box office but cost just \$3 million to make, said Jean-Francois Camilleri, who helped Disney co-produce the film and will head the new unit as executive vice president.

"First of all it was a great film," Camilleri said. "The fact that it worked shows that people had an appetite for it."

The first film to be released in the U.S. will be "Earth" on Earth Day, April 22, 2009. A separate version of the BBC Worldwide and Greenlight Media production was previously released in France, Japan and Germany and earned a total of \$70 million.

"Earth" focuses on a yearlong journey of three mothers—a polar bear, elephant and humpback whale—with their offspring.

The first film released with the Disneynature brand will be "The Crimson Wing: Mystery of the Flamingos." It will premier in France in December, with other release dates yet to be announced.

Disney chief executive Robert Iger said the unit marks a return to the Disney tradition. Among other things, the company made the film series "True-Life Adventures" from 1948 to 1960.

He expects the movies to receive wide release in theaters and create spinoff products that could appear in Disney enterprises on the Internet and in bookstores and theme parks.

The films are expected to create new product lines without straining animation or other studio resources, he said.

"When you create high-quality family entertainment, you can have both success and create shareholder value," he said.

Disney shares rose 13 cents, or 0.4 percent, to close at \$31.46.

Arts institutions feeling impact of ailing economy

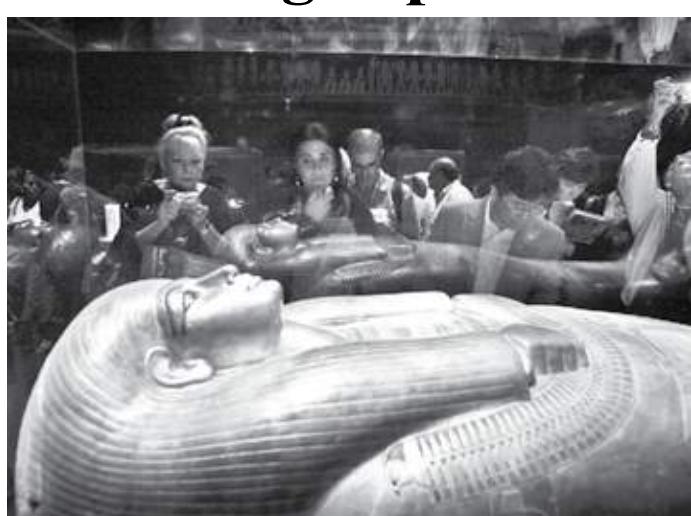
NEW YORK (AP)—When the J. Paul Getty Trust in Los Angeles was seeking to finance the purchase of art works, it did what cultural institutions often do to raise money: It issued bonds.

But rising interest rates brought on by turmoil in the financial markets boosted payments, and the organization got socked for an additional \$650,000 in fees earlier this year for which it had not budgeted.

Like homeowners and stockholders, museums, concert halls, dance companies and other arts organizations are feeling the pinch from the faltering economy.

Museums and symphony halls that financed renovations with seemingly safe municipal bonds saw interest rates spike in recent weeks; other arts institutions are suffering from low returns on investments; and some arts executives are worried that recession fears could take a bite out of donations and ticket sales.

"What turns my stomach every time I turn on the news is the current perception of what's happening in our economy and whether people will get nervous and cut back on their charitable contributions," said Charles Thurrow, executive director of



Visitors view and take photographs at the "Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs" exhibition at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in this file photo of Wednesday, June 15, 2005. AP

the Hyde Park Art Center in Chicago, which used a \$5 million fundraising campaign to renovate in 2006 an old Army warehouse into its first permanent home since opening in 1939. "That would affect our annual operating budget."

In New York and Los Angeles, well-established institutions including Carnegie Hall, the Museum of Modern Art and the Getty Center are scrambling to refinance their debt after interest rates climbed on so-called auction-rate bonds. The interest on auction-rate bonds is reset as often as weekly at auctions where

investors set the rate through bidding.

The allure for issuers, including museums, hospitals and municipalities, has been lower interest rates than is typical of long-term bonds.

Beginning in February, many of the auctions failed to draw bidders because the volatile economy was giving investors cold feet.

"Nobody was willing to buy the bonds," said Donald Elliott, counsel to New York City's Trust for Cultural Resources, which advises arts groups on bond issues. "You had in some

cases a failed auction."

When the auctions fail, the interest rate resets to a pre-established default rate which in some instances can be as high as 12 percent or 15 percent.

Patricia Woodworth, chief financial officer at the J. Paul Getty Trust, which operates two museums in Los Angeles, said the shift in auction bond interest rates—from 3 percent to 9.9 percent—cost the organization some \$650,000 between January and mid-March.

Luckily, the Getty was able to reconfigure its debt into a one-year bond that brought its interest down to 1.7 percent.

Other institutions have had similar problems, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, which borrowed \$320 million over three years to pay for its new Broad Contemporary Art Museum wing and other construction. But it reached a deal to stem its losses through an arrangement that brings the county in as an investor.

Then there's Carnegie Hall, which issued \$41.6 million in auction-rate bonds six years ago for construction of Zankel Hall, one of its three performance venues, and has seen its borrowing costs rise. Spokeswoman Synneve Carlino said officials there are, for now, riding out the storm.

Shakira praises British Prime Minister Gordon Brown

LONDON (AP)—George Clooney, Angelina Jolie, Shakira.

Not a red carpet lineup, but a roll call of celebrities the sometimes dour British Prime Minister Gordon Brown has recruited to inject glamour into his appeals to help the developing world.

Brown joined a telephone conference Monday with Shakira, praising the Colombian pop sensation for taking an inspirational role in work to provide a basic education for every child in the world.

The Grammy-winning singer, famed for her hit "Hips Don't Lie," is supporting a week of events to highlight the cause of education advocacy group the Global Campaign for Education.

She said the group is pressing world leaders to provide funding for primary education for 72 million young children who now miss out on schooling as a result of poverty.

The group also aims to generate support for some 226 million older children who miss out on classes because of a lack of access to schools, or because of truancy.

Brown is the world's "No. 1 champion of education," said



In this Nov. 11, 2007 file photo, Colombian singer Shakira, is shown in Los Angeles.

the group's chairman, Gene Sperling, an ex-White House economic adviser to former President Clinton.

Shakira also praised Brown, who as British treasury chief in 2006 pledged \$15 billion over 10 years for education in the de-

veloping world—the largest offer of aid from a Group of Eight industrialized nation.

"He is a man with wonderful intentions, he is very pro-active, he is working very hard for the issue of education," Shakira said, speaking from Washington on a conference call.

The 31-year-old singer said she had previously met Brown to discuss aid for education. "I could feel how passionate and enthusiastic he was about it," she said.

"She is inspiring people all over the world," Brown said, returning the singer's praise as he joined the call from London.

Brown has made work on meeting the Millennium Development Goals—a set of development standards on education, health, literacy and poverty—a key plank of his foreign policy.

Betraying his often gloomy demeanor, Brown regularly courts celebrities to lend backing to his campaigns.

He held talks with George Clooney earlier this month on violence in Darfur, has worked closely with Bono and Bob Geldof on aid for Africa, and chatted with Angelina Jolie in 2006 on education.

Tribeca hopes for rebound after criticism last year

NEW YORK (AP)—In 2007, the Tribeca Film Festival underwent a modern-day rite of passage: the backlash.

Co-founded by Robert De Niro after Sept. 11 to help heal his Manhattan neighborhood, the festival had previously enjoyed a thankful reception. But as it expanded further into New York and the number of screenings quintupled, some began to resent Tribeca's growth into the already crowded festival circuit.

"You can't please everybody," De Niro said in a recent interview. "If everything's going nicely, there's always going to be somebody to say something."

The seventh annual festival, which opens Wednesday night with the premiere of the Tina Fey comedy "Baby Mama," has responded to the complaints of last year. To help moviegoers wade through the thicket of largely unfamiliar titles, the number of feature films has been cut from 157 to 120 (even though total submissions increased from 4,550 to 4,835). Screenings have been refocused geographically to a "hub" of downtown Manhattan, and average ticket prices have been brought down from \$18 to \$15.

Tribeca, it's clear, is still trying to win over New York and the film community.

"There were some very valid criticisms and we've listened to our audience the way when you're producing a movie and you have a test screening," said Jane Rosenthal, De Niro's producing partner. She is also a founder of the festival, as is her husband, entrepreneur Craig Hatkoff.

Though the festival trumpets

its economic impact on the city (it says \$119 million was generated last year), the Tribeca neighborhood no longer needs commercial help. One need look no further than the ultra-luxurious Greenwich Hotel that De Niro opened earlier this month.

"Would I have predicted sitting there on Sept. 12 that seven years from then, things would feel pretty normal in lower Manhattan?" said Hatkoff. "It's rebounded very, very quickly."

While the Sundance Film Festival is ground zero for quirky independent fare, Cannes specializes in international arthouse and Toronto launches studio Oscar contenders, Tribeca is without a specific identity.

Last year, Tribeca opened with a gala of short films on global warming, hosted by Al Gore, and Rosenthal declared it a "political festival." While there are many politically oriented films playing this year, its centerpieces are a comedy ("Baby Mama"), a martial arts film by David Mamet ("Redbelt") and a family action flick ("Speed Racer"). It also includes an ESPN-sponsored sports film component and outdoor "drive-in" screenings.

"I don't know that we're ready yet to say this is a Tribeca film, this isn't a Tribeca film," said festival programmer Peter Scarlet. "And indeed part of what makes Tribeca-ness—a word I'm not sure I want to be quoted on—is that we're a very diverse festival."

One quality unique to Tribeca is how its run. While other festivals get the majority of their funding from the government, Tribeca is a for-profit festival,

run by a for-profit company: Tribeca Enterprises. The company, owned by De Niro, Rosenthal and Hatkoff, also funnels money into a not-for-profit division, the Tribeca Film Institute, which supports filmmakers through numerous programs.

In a for-profit model, Tribeca is

free to have a much higher level of involvement from sponsors, among them American Express.

"The not-for-profit model is

broken," said Rosenthal. "The

festival runs better and we're

able to get media and marketing

dollars that we wouldn't be able

to get if we were strictly a not-

for-profit only getting founda-

tion money."

But the more prominent sponsorship also riles those who—fairly or not—think film festivals should be less commercial and more artistic. Jeffrey Wells, who blogs the Web site Hollywood-Elswhere.com, last year called Tribeca "the nation's most avaricious and money-grubbing film festival."

Hatkoff said the Tribeca business model better reflects the current media environment where marketing partners work closer with the artist.

Said Hatkoff: "Everything is always done with an eye towards: How does this help the filmmaker? How is this good for our marketing partner?"

Festivals are also judged by how the industry regards them. Tribeca is still not the marketplace that Sundance or Cannes is, but it's been successful with documentaries. Last year's Tribeca was the starting point for the Academy Award-winning "Taxi to the Dark Side."

This year, the festival's high-profile documentaries include one produced by Madonna about Malawi orphans ("I Am Because We Are"), a behind-the-scenes look at the staging of a Bertolt Brecht play by Tony Kushner and Meryl Streep ("Theater of War"), the Beastie Boys' Adam Yauch's film about a high-school all-star game at the historic Rucker Park playground ("Gunnin' for that No. 1 Spot"), and "Baghdad High," which chronicles the lives of four Iraqi teenagers who were given cameras to document their lives YouTube-style.

Other events include an outdoor screening of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" complete with a "zombie disco," a discussion of the meaning of Kubrick's "2001: A Space Odyssey" 40 years later, and conversations with Sissy Spacek, Lou Reed, Errol Morris, Gloria Estefan and Mario Van Peebles—all of whom have films at the festival that they either created or are featured in.

It's all an enormous undertaking, leading one to wonder just how involved the busy De Niro is. Rosenthal described him as the "touchstone" of Tribeca and the "sounding board" to all ideas, often insuring that the filmmakers' perspective is looked after.

"I'm not experiencing what they're experiencing," said De Niro, referring to Rosenthal and other festival producers. "I'm there all the time, but I'm just not doing the nuts-and-bolts, day-to-day work."

Of the festival, which runs until May 4, De Niro said, "What makes me happy is that people enjoy it. That's what it's all about."

Report: Hells Angels founder sues HBO over biker series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The founder of the Hells Angels motorcycle club has sued HBO, claiming the pay cable network cut him out of an upcoming pilot he helped develop, The Hollywood Reporter reported.

Sonny Barger filed a lawsuit in federal court in Los Angeles last week against HBO, production company White Mountain Co. and the project's writer/executive producer, Michael Tolkin.

According to The Hollywood Reporter, the series "1 percent" originally was set at an Arizona chapter of the fictional Death Rangers, one of the toughest motorcycle clubs in the country. The central character is a biker, Misfit, sent in from a Northern California chapter to bring it under control.

HBO is getting ready to start production on the show, which will feature Donald Logue as Misfit.

Barger claims in the lawsuit that he and Tolkin pitched HBO on a motorcycle club-centered series. The cable network turned to Tolkin to create it.

A call to HBO for comment wasn't immediately returned Monday.

Among the objections Barger lists in the lawsuit are "that some characters introduced by Tolkin too closely resembled or depicted living persons (in particular a character named 'Chief,' which for decades has been a well-known nickname or alias for Sonny Barger), that some actual place names used in the script were too identifiably associated with Sonny Barger and the Hells Angels (such as the primary location being Carefree, AZ, which is the town adjacent to where Sonny Barger presently resides, and that the principal character has moved from Northern California, which is exactly what Sonny Barger did.)"

The name of the Chief character has been changed to Cap, the setting of the show has been moved to Apache Junction, Ariz., and Misfit now comes from Valhalla, Ore.

The lawsuit seeks to make the show's script a joint work of Sonny Barger Productions and Tolkin, and seeks to keep the program from being sold or telecast. Barger also wants compensation for what he calls the exploitation of his publicity rights.

Michael Moore endorses Obama

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Moore wants voters in Pennsylvania to cast their ballots for Barack Obama.

Moore endorsed Obama in a 1,100-word posting on his Web site Monday. It includes praise for the Illinois senator and harsh words for Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Democratic Party and the Bush administration.

Lamenting the lack of a valid primary in his home state of Michigan, Moore writes that Obama's experience and voting record aren't as important as his "basic decency" and ability to inspire.

"What we are witnessing is not just a candidate but a profound, massive public movement for change," Moore writes. "My endorsement is more for Obama The Movement than it is for Obama the candidate."

The 54-year-old Oscar-winning filmmaker was hardly as kind to Clinton.

"Over the past two months, the actions and words of Hillary Clinton have gone from being merely disappointing to downright disgusting," he writes, saying that she has tried to "smear" Obama—"Like you were nuts. Like you were a bigot stoking the fires of stupidity."

Most of Moore's ire is directed at the Bush administration "and the permanent, irreversible damage it has done to our



Filmmaker Michael Moore poses for photographers at the after-party for premiere of "Semi-Pro" in Los Angeles in this Feb. 19, 2008, file photo.

'D' on the ballot."

Moore says he is disappointed with the Democratic Party, too, for failing to end the war despite public outcry and for "do(ing) the bidding of the corporate elite in this country. Any endorsement of a Democrat must be done with this acknowledgement..."

Moore declined to elaborate further when contacted by The Associated Press.

Jordin Sparks to miss Keys tour start

NEW YORK (AP)—Vocal problems have forced Jordin Sparks to temporarily withdraw from Alicia Keys' tour and cancel all performances for the rest of the month, a representative for the "American Idol" champ said Monday.

"All of her April activities have been postponed or canceled so she can take care of her voice properly," a 19/Jive Records spokeswoman told The Associated Press.

The 18-year-old singer, whose hits include "Tattoo" and "No Air," was scheduled to be the opening act on Keys' tour, which kicked off over the weekend in Hampton, Va. In addition to missing the tour's first month, Sparks was forced to cancel a planned performance at the Earth Day Network & Green Apple Festival concert in Washington, D.C.

But Sparks, who is under a doctor's care, is expected to rejoin Keys' tour in May or perhaps sooner if she progresses, the label said.

"Jordin Sparks is on vocal rest and is expected to make a full and complete recovery," according to a statement from 19/Jive Records. "Sparks has been going nonstop over the past two years and now she's go-



AP
In this April 6, 2008 file photo, Jordin Sparks poses backstage at the "Idol Gives Back" fundraising special of "American Idol" in Los Angeles.

ing through the normal course of learning how to manage and care for her voice."

Sparks was the youngest win-

ner of "American Idol" when she won the talent competition last year. She released her self-titled debut album late last year.

Clinton, Obama and McCain on WWE's 'Monday Night Raw'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A smackdown among presidential candidates?

Barack Obama, Hillary Rodham Clinton and John McCain will appear on World Wrestling Entertainment's live "Monday Night Raw" (8-11 p.m. EST on cable's USA network) but instead of smacking each other down, they separately will deliver some wrestling-themed stumping in taped messages before Tuesday's Pennsylvania primary.

"Tonight, in honor of the WWE, you can call me Hill-rod," Clinton says in her message. "This election is starting to feel a lot like 'King of the Ring.' The only difference? The last man standing may just be a woman."

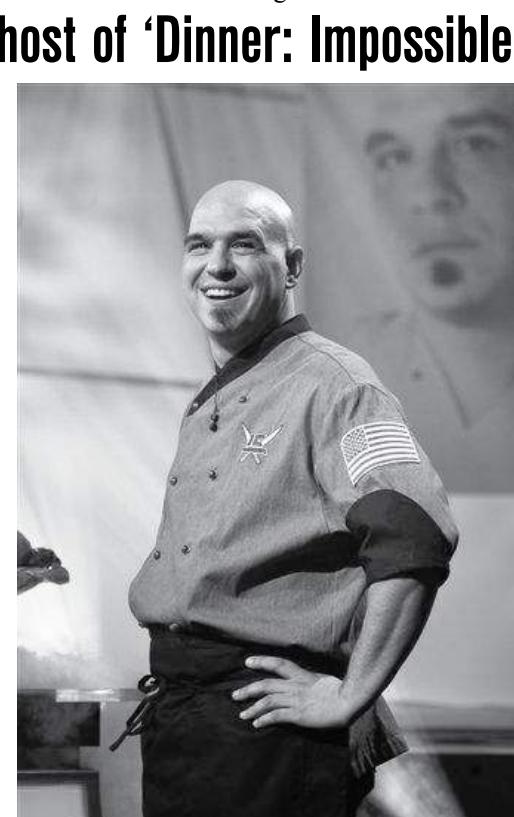
Obama borrows The Rock's famous catchphrase during his appearance.

"To the special interests who've been setting the agenda in Washington for too long and to all the forces of division and distraction that has stopped us from making progress, for the American people, I've got one question: Do you smell what Barack is cooking?" Obama says before flashing a smile.

McCain, meanwhile, looked to Hulkamania for inspiration for his message.

"Looks like Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama want to celebrate their differences in the ring," McCain says. "Well, that's fine with me, but let me tell you: If you want to be the man, you have to beat the man. Come November, it'll be game over. And whatcha gonna do when John McCain and all his McCainiacs run wild on you?"

The candidate appearances will be used to promote "Smackdown Your Vote!"—the WWE's voter registration drive.



AP
In this image released by Food Network, chef, Michael Symon, is shown.

Oprah Winfrey school trial reset

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—A court on Monday postponed the trial of a former dormitory matron accused of abusing pupils at a school set up by Oprah Winfrey for disadvantaged girls.

Magistrate Thelma Simpson agreed to a request made by Tiny Virginia Makopo's lawyer, who said he needed more time to consult with his client.

Court throws out lawsuit challenging NBC's 'Deal or No Deal'

ATLANTA (AP)—Georgia's highest court on Monday threw out a lawsuit contending that NBC's "Deal or No Deal" violated state anti-gambling laws when it invited viewers to take part in a game via text message.

The Georgia Supreme Court ruled unanimously against Michael and Michele Hardin, who wanted NBC to repay them and other state residents for the cost of sending 99-cent text messages in hopes of winning a prize on the hit show's "Lucky Case Game."

The game challenged at-home viewers to guess which of six on-screen gold briefcases was the lucky case.

The couple's lawyer, Jerry Buchanan, called the game an illegal gambling operation and said state law allowed residents to retrieve money because "gambling contracts are void."

NBC attorneys, however, said the game was a promotional tool and not a lottery.

The judge said a new trial date, likely in July, would be set during a provisional hearing on Friday.

Prosecutor Etienne Venter voiced frustration with the delay, saying the state was ready for the trial.

"We can't keep on dragging and dragging the case," he said.

Makopo has pleaded not guilty to charges of indecent assault, assault and criminal injury. Police say the alleged abuse against six teenage students and a fellow dormitory matron took place over four months.

On Monday, Makopo hid her face in a maroon towel as she

entered the court building. A policewoman removed the towel, but Makopo pulled her jacket hood low over her eyes.

"I can't talk to a faceless person," Simpson said as she ordered her to remove the hood.

Winfrey's \$40 million school opened in January 2007 with much fanfare, with guests including Nelson Mandela, Spike Lee and Tina Turner. It is designed to groom girls from disadvantaged backgrounds for leadership roles.

Winfrey, who was a victim of child abuse herself, promised an overhaul of the school and said she had apologized to parents.

Food Network names new host of 'Dinner: Impossible'

By J.M. HIRSCH
AP FOOD EDITOR

One of the Food Network's Iron Chefs says he is ready to do the impossible.

The network on Monday announced that Ohio chef Michael Symon will take over as host of the "Dinner: Impossible" series, which challenges its chef to prepare meals under extreme conditions.

Symon, who won the network's The Next Iron Chef competition in 2007 and appears on its Iron Chef America series, replaces Robert Irvine, who left last month following revelations that he'd exaggerated details of resume.

Irvine had hosted the show for four seasons. The network says Symon will begin taping 10 new episodes this week. They will begin airing this summer. Also new to the show will be a one-hour format.

"I'm really looking forward to the challenges that are going to be thrown my way and nothing gets me more pumped than someone telling me that something is 'impossible,'" Symon said in a statement.

Symon, who is chef and owner of Lola and Lolita restaurants in Cleveland, graduated from The Culinary Institute of America and was named by Food & Wine magazine as one of the Ten Best New Chefs in America in 1998.

Suspicious daughter is wrong about dad's 'conniving woman'

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I have been divorced for four years. About nine months ago, I met "Cecil," a wonderful man who was widowed three years ago. We have fallen in love.

The problem is his adult daughter, "Wanda." She told me she won't allow some "conniving woman" to get her hooks into her father. She says falling in love with me is an insult to her mother's memory. Wanda made it plain she feels I am with her father only because I'm after his money. Cecil is comfortable financially, although not wealthy.

Now that she's aware that we have become serious, Wanda has begun trying to instill guilt and shame in her father. This is exceedingly difficult for him because Wanda is his only child.

What his daughter fails to understand is that I am secure financially. My home is paid off. I have assets and investments, a comfortable income and a future pension. I would be proud to become Cecil's wife, but if he were to ask me to continue our relationship without marriage, I would stay with him. Furthermore, if he proposed and wanted a pre-nup, I would gladly sign one.

I stand ready to love not only him, but also Wanda, if she could only open her heart to me—not as a replacement for her mother, but as a loving, caring friend. What she does not know is that her parents never had the happy marriage she thought they did. They stayed together largely because of her.

What do you advise? I don't want to have to walk away so Cecil won't have to lose his daughter.

—LOVES HIM FOR ALL THE RIGHT REASONS

DEAR LOVES HIM: Unless Cecil wants to spend the rest of his life alone in order to please Wanda, he has some serious thinking to do. He fulfilled his marriage vows and is entitled to a full life. He should make that clear to his daughter, who appears to have some growing up to do.

So stand your ground, and be prepared to lay all your cards on the table. I can't promise it will completely allay Wanda's concerns, but it might put some of them to rest. If that's not the case, then so be it.

DEAR ABBY: I have made a decision (at least for now) not to date or try to find a husband. The reason is my fear that I would repeat my parents' horrible, abusive marriage. They're still together—I have no idea why—but that's another issue. I have decided the abuse will end with me. I know that if I ever met a really awesome guy and did get married, I'd have a hard time not repeating my parents' marriage.

I have told my parents, siblings, extended family and close friends that I'm not looking for a life partner. My problem is, they won't leave me alone. Can you help me get them off my back and allow me to enjoy being single like I want to? How do I fend off these matchmakers?

—HAPPILY SINGLE IN TACOMA

DEAR HAPPILY SINGLE: Please remember that your family and friends are trying to fix you up because they love you. So hang onto your sense of humor when they try to make a match. The magic words are: (smile) "Nope. Not interested."

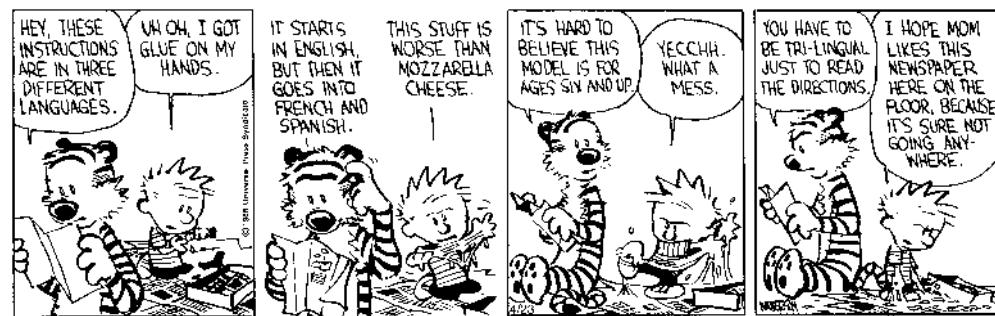
Considering that you had such poor role models, your feelings are understandable. However, because your parents have had a terrible marriage is no guarantee that you would, too. The surest way to break the cycle would be to discuss this subject with a licensed mental health professional.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

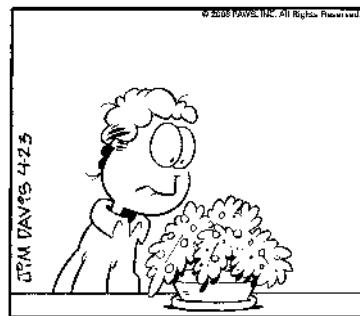
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



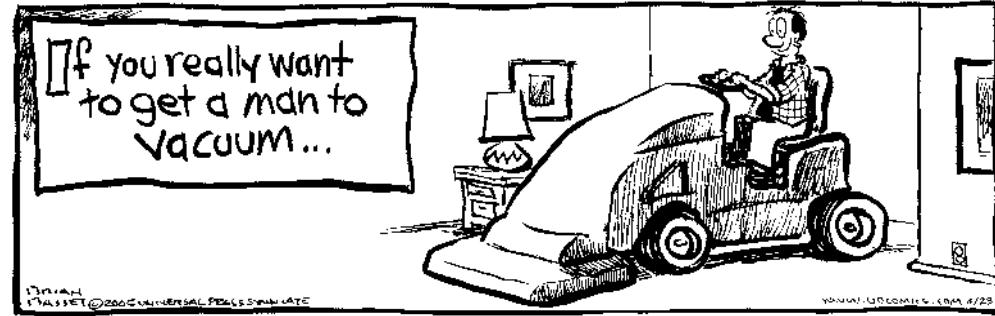
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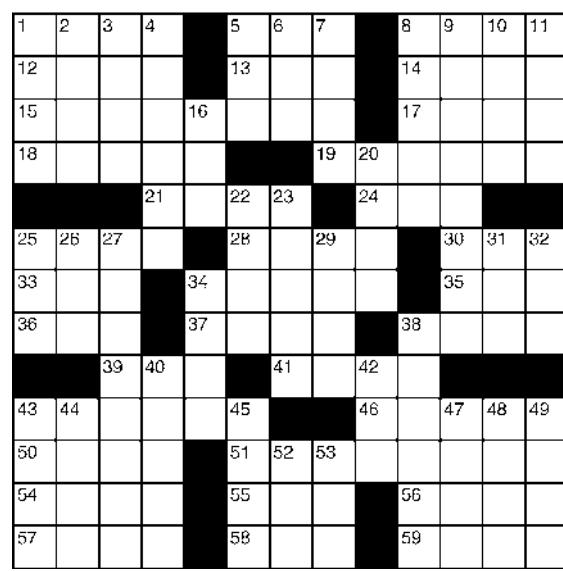
By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

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Yesterday's answer 4-23



For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

By Eugene Sheffer

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Melina Kanakaredes, 41; Valerie Bertinelli, 48; Craig Sheffer, 48; Jan Hooks, 51

Happy Birthday: Comparing yourself or being too critical will hold you back when you should be doing your best to get ahead. Contracts can be signed, settlements enforced and old conditions reformed or put to rest. Take the initiative to go after what you want. An impossible situation will not be as bad as you think. Your numbers are 3, 11, 24, 27, 39, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your ideas will be right on the mark and should be taken seriously. Money is coming your way but not from where you expect. Talk to someone who owes you or who has experience. Love is on the rise. **★★★★★**

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Watch your back and don't be too eager to help someone out financially. A sudden loss is apparent. Don't take chances with money, your health or a pending legal matter. You must be stable at this point. **3 stars**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Mesmerize, socialize and, most of all, use your imaginative mind to create situations that will enhance love and challenge others to rise to the standards you set. A lot is happening and a lot can be achieved. **★★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll have to take the good with the bad. Don't be the one who didn't make a quick enough decision to take advantage of a good thing. The one waffling will lose out. **★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): There is money to be made if you follow through with your plans. Be confident and everyone with whom you discuss what you are doing will be eager to help you out. Dive in with both feet. **★★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let your emotions run wild because of hearsay or what someone else wants to do. A change in plans may leave you in the lurch but, if you are quick to pick up and readjust your plans, you will end up having a better time. **★★★**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You have to keep a close eye on what everyone around you is doing today. Some-

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You'll have love on your mind and plans to put into place. Everything you give to others will come back twofold. Your big heart and caring charismatic way will take you wherever you want to go. **★★★★★**

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You've got control, so don't let anyone take over. Expect underhanded tactics to be used. Stand your ground and choose what's best for you and the ones you love. Talks will bring results. **★★**

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Keep things workable and you will do fine but, take on too much or overdo it in any way and you will be in for a disappointment. Love is looking good but things could easily turn from passion to pushing and shoving if you can't agree on things. **★★★**

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EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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thing may be going on behind your back that could influence your everyday routine. Question what's going on if you are uncertain and before it's too late. **★★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Half the battle will be getting others to realize your true potential. But, once you do, you can reach new heights that will ensure a brighter, more stimulating future. Love is hot so leave time for someone special. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Someone you think you can trust will let you down. Do the work yourself or someone will try to take credit for what you do. Be open about the way you feel and what your plans are if you want to be the one who receives praise for your hard work. **★★**

Birthday Baby: You are a charmer. You are adaptable, lovable and admired by most. You have spunk and presence and are strong and stubborn.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	4	3	9	5	1	6	2
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1 AUTO PAINTER (WF 0041)
Salary: \$3.55/hour. Benefits: medical & workers compensation provided by employer. Contact: Virginia R. Cabrera dba Gene Auto Body Repair Shop @288-0387.

1 WAITRESS/WAITER (MW 0053)
Salary: \$3.55-\$3.75/hour. Benefits: Medical & workers compensation. Contact: Pacific Entertainment dba Club Chicago @234-7900.

1 ACCOUNTANT (WF 0042)
Salary: \$3.05-\$3.55/hour. Benefits: Housing not provided; food not provided; workman's compensation & medical. Contact: Salvador B. Arceo Jr. dba @Hair.com @233-4247.

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- 5-Liner
- 3-Liner with picture
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All job vacancy announcements will be published for two issues in each of two successive weeks.

1st position	\$13.00
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Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Job Vacancy Announcements

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- *Saipan Tribune*: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

Job Vacancy Announcements

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Cavaliers beat up Wizards in Game 2



CLEVELAND (AP)—Maybe Gilbert Arenas was talking about some other Cavaliers. The Cleveland team he and the Washington Wizards faced Monday night doesn't look so beatable.

LeBron James scored 30 points, Zydrunas Ilgauskas added 16, and the Cavaliers played their best game in months, blowing out Arenas and Co. 116-86 to take a 2-0 lead in an opening-round playoff series oozing with bad blood.

The 30-point margin of victory was the largest in Cleveland's postseason history. The Cavs were playing in their 112th playoff game.

James scored 14 points in the third quarter when the Cavs opened a 25-point lead over the Wizards, whose defensive scheme coming into their third series in as many years with Cleveland was to slow James by roughing him up with hard, clean fouls.

It may be time for Plan B.

The Wizards hardly bothered James, who finished with 12 assists and nine rebounds to barely miss his third career postseason triple-double. James went to the bench with 6:12 left. At that point, the Cavaliers were leading by 24 points and coach Mike Brown inserted seldom-used reserves Dwyane Jones and Damon Jones.

Wally Szczerbiak added 15 points for the defending Eastern Conference champions, who have struggled since a big trade in February changed their roster. As the playoffs neared, Arenas called the Cavs out, saying "I think everybody wants Cleveland in that first round" and "We don't think they can beat us in the playoffs three years straight."

Those comments followed Wizards forward DeShawn Stevenson calling James "overrated."

Washington has lost eight straight games to Cleveland in the playoffs, and the Wizards will have to figure something out before Thursday night's Game 3 in Washington or they'll be heading off on summer vacation, again courtesy of the Cavs.

Arenas went just 2-for-10 from the field and Caron Butler and Antawn Jamison were both 4-of-13 as the Wizards' Big Three combined for 28 points. The trio spent much of the fourth quarter sitting and thinking about what happened and the task ahead.

Jazz 90, Rockets 84

At Houston, Deron Williams scored 22 points and Mehmet Okur added 16 points and 16



Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James (23) takes an off-balance shot against Washington Wizards' Antawn Jamison (4) during the second quarter of a Game 2 of their NBA playoff basketball series Monday, April 21, 2008, in Cleveland.

rebounds as Utah beat Houston to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven series.

Game 3 is Thursday night in Utah, where the Jazz went 37-4 during the regular season.

Tracy McGrady, a seven-time All-Star who has never advanced past the first round of the playoffs, had 23 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists to just miss his first postseason triple-double. But he went 0-for-4 from the field and scored only one point in the fi-

nal quarter as the Rockets lost to the Jazz for the eighth time in the last 10 meetings.

McGrady scored 20 points in Game 1, but went 0-for-3 from the field in the fourth quarter of Utah's 93-82 victory.

Bobby Jackson rebounded from a 3-for-15 effort in Game 1 to score 18 points for the Rockets.

Carlos Boozer added 13 points and Williams had five assists for the Jazz, who closed the game on a 14-8 run.

Spurs' Ginobili beats out Suns' Barbosa for sixth man award

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili—good enough to be a starter on about any team—won the NBA's sixth man award given to the league's best reserve on Monday.

Ginobili led the Spurs in scoring, averaging a career-high 19.5 points to go with 4.8 rebounds and 4.5 assists. Ginobili came off the bench in 51 of the 74 games he played this season.

"I really don't care about coming from the bench if that helps the team to win a championship," Ginobili said.

The Spurs have a 1-0 lead over the Phoenix Suns in their best-of-seven first-round playoff series. Suns guard Leandro Barbosa won the award last year and Ginobili came in second.

"He's one of the better players in the NBA, who just happens to come off the bench," said Spurs starting guard Michael Finley. "Any other team

in the league, he'd probably be starting, but for him to come off the bench and put his ego aside it just shows what kind of team we have, and more importantly what kind of player and All-Star he is."

Ginobili got 123 of 124 first-place votes for 615 points. Barbosa came in second with 283 points and the Dallas Mavericks' Jason Terry was third with 44.

"It was no race. Just like, when (is it) going to happen," said Spurs point guard Tony Parker. "He was our best player all year long."

The 6-foot-6 guard who gives the team a boost of energy off the bench. He was drafted by the Spurs in 1999 in the second round with the 57th overall pick. The Argentinian has been with the team for three of its four title runs.

"That is what I'm going to remember when I retire, the rings I have," Ginobili said. "Not the fact I played 28 minutes or 33

or my name being called in the starting lineup. That's not going to make the difference in 10 to 15 years."

Ginobili enters the game, usually about midway through the first quarter, to huge roars from the crowd when the Spurs announcer yells "Here comes Manu!"

"I just consider myself a player, a team player," Ginobili said. "So this year he (Spurs coach Gregg Popovich) thought it was more important for me to come from the bench, so I just try to do it the best way I can."

Popovich gave all the credit to Ginobili, who is the first Spurs player to win the award.

"Manu is a person who's much more concerned with the group than he is about himself," Popovich said. "He got over himself a long time ago. ... I don't think there are too many All-Stars that coaches in this league can go to and say,

"You've been great. Now you're going to come off the bench." So I'm very fortunate."

Ginobili shot better than 40 percent from 3-point range in his sixth regular NBA season and when he drives the lane—routinely picking up bumps and bruises along the way—he's known for putting the ball in from seemingly impossible angles.

"Before I got here I used to think those shots that he made were luck, and what we called, when I was growing up, fluke shots," Finley said. "Now that I'm his teammate and I see him on a daily basis, that's his game."

Ginobili hit the game winning layup in the Spurs' Game 1 win over the Suns on Saturday with 1.8 seconds on the clock in double overtime.

The last sixth man award winner to lead his team in scoring was Milwaukee's Ricky Pierce. He averaged 23 points when he won the award in 1990.

Skiles is Bucks' new head coach

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Milwaukee Bucks need to play tougher defense, and start sharing the ball on offense. So they're turning to Scott Skiles, the man who owns the NBA's single-game assist record—and who once got into a fight with Shaquille O'Neal during his playing days and lived to tell the tale.

The Bucks introduced Skiles as their new coach Monday, signing the former Chicago Bulls and Phoenix Suns coach to a four-year deal to replace someone Skiles considers a close friend, Larry Krystkowiak.

And while Skiles said he learned some lessons after the Bulls fired him in December, he isn't backing away from his reputation for demanding a lot from his players.

"I always feel like I'm supposed to apologize for that," Skiles said. "And I'm not sure that's the tack I want to take. Anybody that is going to come to work with enthusiasm, concentrate and play hard will never have a problem with me. I don't care if they throw the ball in the seats 25 times a game."

He doesn't?

"They'll be pulled out of the game before they get to 25, of course, but they will never have a problem with me," Skiles added.

Skiles, who was drafted out of Michigan State by the Bucks in the first round in 1986, said he has a "fond place" in his heart for Milwaukee. But he has no illusions about the difficult task he faces in turning around a team that began the season with playoff aspirations but finished 26-56.

"It's not going to be easy," Skiles said. "I don't have any magic dust to sprinkle on people. We're going to have to do it by working harder and playing better (defense), and the first step will be getting competitive every single night. The team has not been competitive every night and if we do that, good things will happen."

The 44-year-old Skiles has more NBA head coaching experience than Milwaukee's two previous coaches, Krystkowiak and Terry Stotts, did when they were hired by the Bucks.

Skiles spent nearly three full seasons in Phoenix after taking over for Danny Ainge early in the 1999-00 season. He was fired by the Bulls in December after making the playoffs in three of his first four seasons in Chicago.

But experience wasn't the main thing new Bucks general manager John Hammond was looking for in his new coach. Hammond wanted toughness, something Skiles is certain to bring. But will the Bucks, one of the league's worst defensive teams last year, buy in?

"It's a player's responsibility to buy into it and be willing to accept it," Hammond said. "But if you have the kind of people who are willing to accept it, it can happen. I truly believe players want to be coached. They want to be taught. They want discipline within the team. So it's a coach's responsibility to bring those things to the table."

The Bucks are expected to try to overhaul their roster in the offseason. Skiles is familiar with the Bucks from coaching against them, but said he wasn't comfortable assessing individual players, yet.

"I've never made any secret of my philosophy, I believe in playing hard, playing defense, playing with passion, bring enthusiasm every single day and that's what I'll be after. I'm not real concerned with what happened before," Skiles said.

Skiles didn't want to make excuses for the Bulls' rough start this season, although he mentioned the team might have been distracted by persistent trade rumors involving Kobe Bryant and ongoing contractual issues with some of their top players.

"It's still an excuse," Skiles said. "Any maybe that was the case. We just couldn't seem to get over that. I think Chicago will come back and be a very, very good club next year again."

Skiles said he spoke to Krystkowiak about the job even before Krystkowiak officially was fired. Skiles said Krystkowiak called it a "great" opportunity, and doesn't expect the decision to take the job would affect their friendship. In fact, Skiles and his wife had dinner plans with Krystkowiak and his wife Monday night.

But Skiles is not likely to bring Krystkowiak back as an assistant.

"I would love to work with Larry at some point," Skiles said. "I don't know if this is the time or place for that."

As a player, Skiles played only 13 games for Milwaukee as a rookie, but he went on to a 10-year career that included stops in Indiana, Orlando, Washington and Philadelphia.

While with Orlando, Skiles set an NBA record with 30 assists in a December 30, 1990 game against Denver. Skiles' more notorious achievement while playing for the Magic, however, was a confrontation with O'Neal during practice that also involved Krystkowiak.

O'Neal reportedly went after Krystkowiak and the 6-foot-1 Skiles jumped in to help out his friend, ending up in a rugby-style scrum.

Skiles confirmed that his run-in with Shaq wasn't an urban legend.

"But it was purely self-defense," he joked.

Boston completes four-game sweep of Rangers



BOSTON(AP)—Clay Buchholz pitched six shutout innings, David Ortiz drove in three runs with a pair of doubles and the Boston Red Sox completed a four-game sweep of the Texas Rangers with an 8-3 win Monday.

Julio Lugo went 4-for-4 with a walk and an RBI as the Red Sox scored at least five runs for the ninth straight game. Boston has won nine of 10 overall.

The annual game on Patriots Day—a holiday commemorating the 1775 battles of Lexington and Concord in the American Revolutionary War against the British—began at 11:06 a.m. It takes place on the same day as the Boston Marathon, and runners passed by Fenway Park starting in the third inning and kept going for hours.

Tigers 5, Blue Jays 1

In Toronto, Major League Baseball rookie Armando Galarraga won his second straight start, Edgar Renteria homered and the Detroit Tigers beat the Toronto Blue Jays.

Ivan Rodriguez had four hits and Renteria scored twice for the Tigers.

Galarraga (2-0) has won consecutive starts since being called up from the Tigers' top-level minor-league team in Toledo, Ohio, last week to replace Dontrelle Willis, sidelined by a hyperextended knee.

The 26-year-old Galarraga blanked the Blue Jays on three singles for 5 1-3 innings. He struck out four and walked four.

Phillies 9, Rockies 5

At Denver, now that there's no playoff pressure, the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Colorado Rockies with relative ease.

Chase Utley homered for the fifth straight game, Jason Werth hit an inside-the-park home run and Philadelphia rallied for a 9-5 win over Colorado in the first meeting between the teams since the Rockies' first-round sweep last October.

Utley hit his major league-leading ninth home run—his sixth in five games.

Garrett Atkins and Yorvit Torrealba homered for the Rockies, who blew an eighth-inning lead for the second straight day.

The Phillies mounted the winning rally off Taylor Buchholz (1-1) with two outs and no one on. Ryan Howard and Pat Burrell singled, and Pedro Feliz walked. Brian Fuentes came on in relief, and Carlos Ruiz doubled down the right-field line to drive in two runs.

Philadelphia added three runs in the top of the ninth off Micah Bowie on doubles by Werth and T.J. Bohn. Rudy Seanez (2-1) got the win in relief.

Braves 7, Nationals 3

At Atlanta, Tim Hudson pitched six scoreless innings before tiring and drove in two runs, leading the Braves past Washington for Atlanta's fifth straight win.

The Braves have allowed only six runs during their winning streak, which pushed them above .500 for the first time this season at 10-9.

Washington keeps falling farther and farther back in the NL East race. The Nationals lost their third in a row and have dropped 15 of 17 since starting the season with three straight wins.

Hudson (3-1) went to the seventh with a 7-0 lead, but the Nationals touched him for a couple of runs. He might have gotten though it if not for

an error by first baseman Mark Teixeira, who dropped a routine throw and gave Washington an unearned run.

Diamondbacks 4, Giants 2

At Phoenix, Eric Byrnes hit the go-ahead, two-run homer, and Micah Owings became the season's third four-game winner when Arizona beat San Francisco.

Mark Reynolds and Orlando Hudson

solo homer, and five hits in 6 1-3 innings. He struck out four, walked one and hit two batters.

Cubs 7, Mets 1

At Chicago, Carlos Zambrano pitched seven strong innings, and Aramis Ramirez and Felix Pie homered as the surging Chicago beat New York for its 12th win in 15 games.

including three on Pie's first homer off Jorge Sosa.

Cardinals 4, Brewers 3

At Milwaukee, Skip Schumaker doubled in the go-ahead run in the ninth and St. Louis overcame a fielding blunder in the eighth to beat Milwaukee in the opener of a two-game set.

Brian Barton, who pinch hit for



Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz (34) hits a two run double during the fifth inning of their game against the Texas Rangers at Fenway Park in Boston, Monday, April 21, 2008. AP

hit solo home runs as the Diamondbacks improved their major league-best record to 14-5. Arizona is 13-3 against NL West foes.

Owings (4-0) joined teammate Brandon Webb and Boston's Daisuke Matsuzaka and Florida's Mark Hendrickson as the season's first pitchers with four wins. The 25-year-old right-hander allowed two runs, including Fred Lewis'

Zambrano (3-1) allowed five hits and a run with two walks and four strikeouts. Chicago's ace was backed by four double plays, including one in the sixth started by shortstop Ronny Cedeno that doused a big inning for the New York Mets.

Ramirez homered to left-center after Derrek Lee led off the fourth with a single off John Maine (1-2). The Cubs added five runs in the eighth,

reliever Ryan Franklin, doubled off embattled Brewers reliever Derrick Turnbow (0-1) to start the inning and Schumaker drove him in with a double to the wall after a sacrifice bunt.

Turnbow, frustrated since he's no longer the setup man, has failed to inspire confidence for the Brewers, who lost for the 10th time in 13 games against the Cardinals.

Vikings DE Udeze's recovering from leukemia



EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—His head shaved bald and his face a bit thinner than before, Kenechi Udeze otherwise looked fit and strong Friday as he proudly announced a pair of remarkable developments in his three-month fight against leukemia.

The disease is in remission, and the Minnesota Vikings' defensive end has found a bone marrow donor.

"I just kept my faith, and here we are today," said Udeze, who just found out on Wednesday his blood and his bone marrow were cancer-free.

He has also learned his older brother, Thomas Barnes, is a match for his marrow and will be able to donate for a yet-to-be-scheduled transplant.

Udeze did not rule out participation in the upcoming NFL season, but for now putting the pads back on is not a short-term goal. He must still undergo chemotherapy twice a week and has more progress to make before his body is back to normal.

"That's all I'm focusing on right now. Football's not going anywhere, and just like football I'm not going anywhere," Udeze said.

His condition at this point, though, is clearly best-case scenario for this disease, defined as cancer of the blood and bone marrow. Udeze began to be bothered by migraine headaches in early February and after about a week he realized something else was wrong.

He didn't believe the diagnosis at first, but he quickly rooted himself in the power of positive thinking and continued to rely on his Christian faith and the support of friends, family and teammates to push through the difficult first few weeks. Ray Edwards brought video games, Erasmus James came with DVDs, and Pat Williams showed up with food to help him cope during a 24-day hospital stay.

Though Udeze must take it easy with physical activity—an overzealous workout after his initial discharge resulted in a 105-degree temperature that lasted five days and sent him back to the hospital—he said he has hardly felt sick at all during the process.

"I tell 'em I have nothing but a cold, because that's what it feels like," Udeze said. "I'm not feeling down or anything like that. That's the way you have to attack it. You have to have a good attitude and a good mind-set, and that's something that I naturally always have."

Udeze came to Minnesota's practice facility on Friday evening to raise awareness for the National Marrow Donor Program, a locally based non-profit that facilitates transplants and helps connect patients, doctors, donors and researchers for the cause.

His appearance kicked off a 24-hour fundraising session of youth and adult soccer games, held on the team's indoor field all night and the next day. Former Vikings tight end Doug Kingsriter, who is president of The Marrow Foundation, joined Udeze in welcoming the participants. The 25-year-old former first round draft pick out of Southern California was also accompanied by his wife, Terrica, and their 4

Astros 10, Padres 3

At Houston, Roy Oswalt won consecutive starts for the first time since August, and Miguel Tejada and Lance Berkman drove in three runs each to lead Houston over San Diego.

Oswalt (2-3) allowed three runs and six hits in seven innings as the Astros won their second straight following a three-game losing streak. Oswalt was 6-0 over eight starts from July 20 to Sept. 3, then went 0-4 in six starts before winning at Philadelphia on April 16.

San Diego's Jim Edmonds hit a solo home run in the second, his first homer since Sept. 14.

Dodgers 9, Reds 3

At Cincinnati, Nomar Garciaparra hit his first home run since Sept. 14 and drove in three runs, Brad Penny stayed perfect at Great American Ball Park and Los Angeles beat Cincinnati.

Rafael Furcal also homered, and James Loney added three RBI for the Dodgers, who equaled their season high with 15 hits after scoring one run in each of their three losses at Atlanta last weekend.

Andruw Jones was dropped to eighth in the starting batting order for the first time since Aug. 22, 1998. He went 0-for-4, lowering the five-time All-Star's average to .159.

Penny (3-2) allowed a run and six hits while improving to 5-0 in five career starts at Great American. Park Chan-ho pitched three innings for his first save in 330 career pitching appearances.

Marlins 10, Pirates 4

At Pittsburgh, Hanley Ramirez, Josh Willingham and Dan Uggla homered and Mark Hendrickson, normally one of the majors' worst hitters, had two hits while pitching eight innings in Florida's win over slumping Pittsburgh.

Ramirez hit a two-run homer during a four-run second inning against Matt Morris (0-3), giving him three homers in two games. Willingham added a two-run drive as Florida scored three more times in the third to make it 7-2.

The Pirates lost their sixth in a row and gave up double-digit runs for the third consecutive game. They hadn't done that since Montreal scored a combined 35 runs against them during three games in June 1994.

1/2-month-old daughter, Bailey

More than 10,000 people annually around the world develop diseases such as leukemia or lymphoma and don't have a matching marrow donor in their family, according to the organization.

The uncertainty of Udeze's situation—it remains highly unlikely he'll be able to play in 2008—has compounded an area of weakness for the Vikings, who ranked last in the league last year in passing defense. James is also recovering from a second straight offseason knee surgery.

The Vikings have the 17th pick in the NFL draft next weekend, when they'll surely strongly consider taking another defensive end. But they might not wait that long to upgrade the position.

All-Pro Jared Allen, the league's reigning sacks leader who was slapped with the franchise player tag by the Kansas City Chiefs, was at Winter Park on Friday to visit with team officials. Minnesota and Tampa Bay have each been talking about a trade with the Chiefs.

22 bikers take part in Crazy 8

 "The toughest exercise I've ever done," competitor Mamiko Oshima said upon completing her first mountain bike race.

The Northern Marianas Islands Triathlon Federation organized the first Crazy 8 mountain bike this past Saturday. The off-road race offered three different courses for competitors to choose from, a short course, a pro course, and an expert course. In all, 22 bikers of all levels raced against the course and fellow competitors.

Race director Russ Quinn explained how he came up with the idea. "The Crazy 8 came about as I was looking at a map of Saipan and connected a few

trails that we ride on a regular basis. When I drew it up on the map, it was in the shape of an '8,' and people who don't ride much call us 'crazy' for doing some of the rides we do...hence crazy 8."

Well, there were lots of Crazy's out there on Saturday, and it looked like they were having a great time. Top rider Eli Torgeson easily won the expert course. He set a course record in 1:14:20. Closely behind Torgeson was longtime endurance athlete Tyce Mister, who crossed the finish line in 1:19:18.

The pro course comprised of the most competitors. Thirteen riders battled it out on the rugged course. Top finisher Cesar Fortalaza was the first competitor to



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants in the Crazy 8 Mt. Bike Race take a break at the foot of Mt. Tapochao.

to his Trench Tech family at their new gym in San Antonio.

Trench Tech Gym co-instructor Cuki Alvarez is inviting interested enthusiasts to join them from Monday to Saturday from 5pm to 8pm and learn the art of grappling and jujitsu with professional instructor Tetsuji Kato from Japan.

Alvarez is also reminding all fight clubs that they will be hosting the 2008 "Art Of War II" All Island Grappling/Submissions

Challenge on May 10.

Interested competitors can sign up at Boarderline, 670 Rock Steady or at the Trench Tech Gym. Tickets are also available at the following outlets for \$5 each.

The entrance fee is \$20 and participants will receive an event T-shirt. Medals will also be awarded to the Top 3 winners in each weight division.

For more information, call Alvarez at 483-4MMA or 483-4662.

Hustlers I 24, Suns 7

Raymund Saralu had a grand slam as the UMDA Hustlers I coasted to a 24-7 decision against the Shell Marianas Suns.

Saralu went 4-for-4 with four runs, two homers, a triple, and seven RBIs. He led off the first with a two-RBI triple then added a grand slam in his second at bat in the same inning.

Saralu also had a solo inside-the-park home run in the second and capped his plate appearance with a two-RBI triple in the third inning.

A.J. Lizama also homered going 2-for-2 with four runs, a triple, and six RBIs. He had a three-run inside-the-parker in the second then had a two-RBI triple in the third.

Joseph Borja went 3-for-3 with three runs, and a first inning two-RBI triple.

Little Lions 3, Dolphins 1

The Kagman Little Lions of Reps. Ed Salas and Rosmond Santos snapped out of a seven-game slump with a 3-1 triumph over the PTI Dolphins.

Keene Deleon Guerrero pitched 5.2 innings giving up eight hits with 10 strikeouts and no walks. He threw 86 pitches in the game.

Deleon Guerrero went 2-for-3 with one run, a triple, and an RBI while Cedric Ada went 2-for-3 with one run and a double.

general Robin Sapong to help him in recording the times of the participants, while he would also seek assistance from the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation and its president Russ Quinn.

He said he expects all running enthusiasts on Saipan, who regularly join various races on the island, NMA athletes, and NMITF members will also take part in his five-kilometer fun run.

The Mt. Fuji Marathon or Fuji Tozan Race is composed of two legs, a 15-kilometer race to

the fifth station of the mountain and a 21-km race all the way to the top. The final six kilometers of the race is also a trail run.

Villafria said lawyer and perennial contender Pixley would join him in the Mt. Fuji Marathon, while inaugural 12-kilometer Marianas Coffee Trail Run at Mt. Tapochao winner Fujio Miyachi will also compete for the third time in the race.

Registration for the Mt. Fuji race is limited to only 6,000 participants and sign up is a first-come, first-served basis. Villafria said Pixley would take

care of their registration.

Villafria previously led an All-Filipino team in winning the relay event of the 19th Tagaman Triathlon on March 15 where he ran the 15-km course in 58 minutes and 33 seconds and beat Miyachi in the 12-km trail run of the 7th Xterra Saipan Championships with a time of 1:01:12.

He also placed third in the 10-km event of the 3rd Annual Saipan Marathon in January (41:43.22) and ran solo in the 13.7-mile Christmas Island Relay last year with a time of 1:48:50.

A slice of the participants gingerly bike the level portion of the energy-draining bike race.

cross the finish line with a time of 1:09:31. Closely on his heels in second place was Ronald Villafria clocking in with a 1:10:50.

The short course provided a challenge to the beginners of mountain biking. Fred Camacho was top dog in this division posting a 1:10:13 time, while first-timer Mamiko Oshima finished in second place with a 1:19:10.

Saturday's conditions were perfect, the course was dry and fast. One competitor, Sal Schwartz, talked about his race, "That race was terrific! I tell you, I left my heart on that course."

SIGUA

From Page 28

As I was flying down the back side of Tapochau, I almost lost my dentures, but I bit down and they stayed in, I was real happy about that!"

Mountain biking on Saipan has gained popularity recently, and the local triathlon club is trying to create events that will provide challenges and mini goals for people to shoot for. The next mountain bike race will be on May 31 sponsored by the Hyatt Regency Saipan and the Marianas Visitors Authority as part of Tourism Month. (NMITF)

Gil Faller, Rey Ferraz, Greg De Torres, Rene Batallo, Nestor Siruelo, and George Sablan

Established in 1993, Fil-Taga's tournaments operate under a computer-controlled handicap system that creates parity among players in the A and B Flights.

A Fil-Taga Ace of the Month champion is crowned monthly. Regular tournaments are scheduled once a month, normally every third Sunday. Green fees are in the \$35 to \$40 price range for most tournaments.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	14	7	.667	—
Baltimore	11	8	.579	2
New York	10	10	.500	3 1/2
Toronto	10	10	.500	3 1/2
Tampa Bay	8	11	.421	5

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	11	7	.611	—
Kansas City	9	10	.474	2 1/2
Minnesota	9	10	.474	2 1/2
Cleveland	7	12	.368	4 1/2
Detroit	7	13	.350	5

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	12	8	.600	—
Oakland	12	8	.600	—
Seattle	10	10	.500	2
Texas	7	13	.350	5

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Florida	12	7	.632	—
New York	10	8	.556	1 1/2
Atlanta	10	9	.526	2
Philadelphia	10	10	.500	2 1/2
Washington	5	15	.250	7 1/2

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	13	6	.684	—
St. Louis	13	7	.650	1/2
Milwaukee	11	8	.579	2
Cincinnati	8	12	.400	5 1/2
Houston	8	12	.400	5 1/2
Pittsburgh	7	12	.368	6

LOCAL SCORES

Little League Standings Majors

Patriots	9	1
O'aces	9	1
Survivors	8	2
Dragons	8	3
Red Sox	8	3
Hustlers I	7	1
Dolphins	6	4
Braves	6	4
Twins	5	6
Pirates	3	6
Athletics	2	7
McDonald's	2	7
Hustlers II	1	6
Lions	1	7
Dare JPO's	1	8
Suns	0	9

OL'ACES

From Page 28

He belted a three-run four-bagger in the Survivors five-run third inning.

Vicente Cabrera went 2-for-2 with two runs and a double.

Dragons 13, McDonald's 2

Juljean Ngeskebei pitched and batted her way to lift the San Antonio Dragons to a 13-2 win over Team McDonald's.

Ngeskebei pitched five no-relief innings giving up six hits with four strikeouts and three walks. She then went 3-for-4 scoring one run with two doubles and two RBIs.

Angelo Jones went 2-for-2 with two runs and a double.

Twins 10, Hustlers II 6

The Wells Fargo As Matuus

RUN

From Page 28

nated or helped him are lawyer Steve Pixley, Eli Arago, Ariel Mariano, Susan Espanillo, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Coco's Restaurant, Tan Holdings Legal Department, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Capricciosa Restaurant, Hard Rock Café, CTSI, DFS Galleria, SaipanCell Communications, Coca-Cola Micronesia, PTI, and Marianas Brokers Inc.

Villafria also talked to Northern Marianas Athletics secretary

Youth seen as future of women's soccer



For the
C N M I
Women's
National
Football Team

Football Team, it's hard to believe that just a few days remain until the 2nd Annual Marianas Cup. The women came together as a national team during a tryout session in early November, and they have spent long hours training hard and building team cohesion since then.

One of them most exciting things to happen to the team this year is the addition of several young players.

Marianas High School students Elisa Fejera, Mariana Gramlich, and Rima Halaby, Saipan International School students Zoe Jewell and Madison Smith, and Grace Christian Academy student Ashley Hofsneider have brought great potential, talent, and energy to the team this year.

Fourteen-year-old Jewell is the only student who was also on the women's team last year. All of the other girls have gotten involved in playing soccer through participation in the recreational women's league.

Veteran national team members saw the potential of these talented young girls and invited them to try out for the national team.

Patty Coleman, a veteran national team player, feels that having these young girls on the team have helped to add a new dimension to the team. "As skilled as [the young girls] are now, if they continue with the team, in just a few years, they will be able to take the team to a higher level."

During practice, the energy and youthful enthusiasm these girls exude is contagious.

Women's committee director Francine Sablan looks to the young girls for motivation during practice.

"During a long, hard practice, I see the high school girls working just as hard as I am, but I see them smiling and enjoying themselves. They remind that I'm playing this sport because it's fun."

Even though the girls bring a youthful spark to the team, when it gets down to business on the pitch, their maturity trumps their youth. National team member, Meaghan Hassel-Shearer is impressed with how this happens. "Sometimes I forget that they're still in school, and I treat them like I treat my close friends who are my age."

The young girls look up to the veteran players for inspiration. Fifteen-year-old Smith really enjoys playing on the team. "The older players are always willing to help and teach us. It makes it easier to learn the game."

Smith plans to tryout for the team again next year, and that makes the women's team excited. Coleman believes "The young girls will soon help to make the women's national team more competitive at an international level."

The CNMI Women's National Football Team takes on Guam at the Oleai field this Saturday, April 26, 3pm.

Other members of the CNMI Women's National Team include co-captains Emily Gries and Brenda Schultz, Nikki Gabaldon, Becca Newman, Lindsay Davis, Katie Peters, Connie Camacho, Natalie Hill, Jenny Linden, Amanda Allen, and Lindsey Sosovec. (NMIFA)

Sunday opening for Tinian Dynasty caging

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



Organizers of the 8th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino Basketball League moved the opening date of its 2008 season from Saturday to Sunday.

The committee met Monday night with the coaches and players of the seven participating teams and they also held a draw lots for the opening day matches.

The opening will be held at the Tinian Gymnasium at 5pm where the eight participating teams will parade with their muses. Special numbers are also lined up to liven up the opening ceremony.

Defending champion Food and Beverage Service Tigers will open up its title bid against Taga-Housing Department.

Housing Department will have its hands full when they battle the Tigers, who will be led by two former most valuable players.



The youth players in the CNMI Women's National Team, clockwise from left, Ashley Hofsneider, Rima Halaby, Elisa Fejera, Maryana Gramlich, Madison Smith, and Zoe Jewell.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Women's Nationals add futsal to training regimen

With a few days left until the 2nd Annual Marianas Cup, the CNMI Women's National Football Team continues to train intensively in preparation for their match against Guam's very best.

As part of the team's training regimen, head coach Nick Swain has added futsal as part of the

women's weekly practices.

According to Swain, adding futsal to the training schedule was a great way to add some fun to the hard weekly trainings. "Futsal provides a lot of opportunities for touches on the ball, speeds up the game, and demands quick decision-

making and good passing."

Futsal is also known as five aside or indoor soccer and is a sport that demands quick reflexes, fast thinking, and accurate ball control. It is also referred to as the "great skill developer." It is played on a basketball style court, with



CNMI Women's National Football Team head coach Nick Swain and his staff pose with team.

no walls and a low bouncing ball, requiring players to use their skill rather than the ball's bounce to propel it.

Veteran national player Lindsay Davis adds that playing futsal has helped the team to improve its first touches on the ball. According to Davis, "[as compared to football] futsal is a faster game that builds quick sport muscles and is a lot of fun."

Swain further recommends that everyone play futsal. "You only need a ball and a flat surface. Many of the great football players in the world play this game."

Last April, the NMI women's team suffered a 0-7 loss at the hands of Guam strikers at the GFA Complex and Training Facility Field in Harmon. This year the NMI will play host to this event at the Oleai Sports Complex on April 26 at 3pm. Pre-game activities are set to begin at 2:45pm. (NMIFA)

Tinian fiesta netfest opens next week



The three-day San Jose Fiesta Tennis Tournament kicks off next week in Tinian, which offers competition in four levels in five divisions.

Organized by the Tinian Tennis Association, competition will be held in the men's and women's singles and men's, women's, and mixed doubles in the open, 4.0, 3.0,

and 2.0 levels.

Tournament director Sonny Decena is inviting Saipan netters to join them from May 1 to 3 in time for the San Jose Fiesta.

Registration fee is \$10 for the first entry and \$6 for the succeeding divisions. The deadline for sign up is at 6pm on April 27, Sunday, and the draw will be held on Tinian at 6pm the following day, April 28.

Trophies will be awarded to the Top 3 placers in all levels of all five divisions.

The tennis tournament is one of the 2008 Tinian Fiesta Committee's programs for the annual Tinian Fiesta Sportsfest.

Aside from tennis, the Tinian Fiesta sports committee—headed by chairwoman Prince C. Monkeya—will also offer competitions in men's and women's volleyball, softball, and men's basketball.

For more information about the Tinian Fiesta Sportsfest, call Monkeya on Tinian at 433-9330 or email her at a.shada@pticom.com or Elias Rangamar on Saipan at 664-2502.

For more information about the Tinian Fiesta Tennis Tournament, call Decena at 433-1610 to 0041 or 287-2283 or email sonnydececa2000@yahoo.com or call Doy Ligan at 433-7678. (Jon Perez)



Youth seen as future of women's soccer

For the CNMI Women's National Football Team, it's hard to believe that just a few days remain until the 2nd Annual Marianas Cup.

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Saipan Tribune

Sports

28 WEDNESDAY, APRIL 23, 2008



LeBron scores 30 as Cavs beat up Wizards in Game 2

Maybe Gilbert Arenas was talking about some other Cavaliers. The Cleveland team he and the Washington Wizards faced Monday night doesn't look so beatable.

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

'The Crank' wins two medals in DC

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Frank "The Crank" Camacho won two medals including a gold in the recently concluded Naga Jujitsu Championships in Washington, D.C.

Camacho, who broke out of the local mixed martial arts scene under the Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym, represented his home gym and the Lloyd Irvin MMA Academy in the weekend competition.

He competed in the 180-189 lbs weight class winning the gold in the gi division and adding the bronze in the no gi.

TRENCH TECH

Jujitsu practitioners wear the gi or kimono, as it is traditionally called, during a match. The gi can be used as leverage or a weapon against your opponent in trying to force him to submission by choking.

Camacho is more of a no gi fighter and has been training in the art of Brazilian jujitsu under master Lloyd Irvin the past months. He has been enjoying this special form of unarmed combat.

See THE CRANK on Page 26

Ol'Aces shut out Enforcers, 15-0

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
The Happy Market Ol'Aces scored a 15-0 shutout win over the JPO Enforcers in Sunday's Majors division game in the Saipan Little League at the Miguel



Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field. Ol'Aces used an eight-run second inning scoring spree to break the game wide open and notch their ninth win against one loss.

T.J. Sablan pitched four no-hit innings with seven strikeouts and two walks. He held the Enforcers of Rep. Diego T. Benavente to a 0-for-12 in batting and needed just 60 pitches to complete the shutout win.

Shane Deleon Guerrero went 2-for-2 with two runs, two RBIs and a double while Jessie Brel, 2-for-2, scored a run and had two RBIs.

Survivors 11 Pirates 5

Poland Masaharu blasted a three-run inside-the-park home run to

help the Martha's Store Survivors pull off an 11-5 win over the Pirates. Masaharu went 2-for-3 with two runs, and four RBIs.

See OL'ACES on Page 26

JON PEREZ

A UMDA Hustlers batter waits for the pitch in this file photo taken in their game against the Wells Fargo As Matuas Twins in the Majors division of the Saipan Little League at the Miguel Basa "Tan Ge" Pangelinan Field.



Frank "The Crank" Camacho poses for photographers after winning one of his fights on Saipan.

JON PEREZ

Butch Sigua tops April Ace

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Butch Sigua emerged victorious in the April Ace of the Month Tournament of Fil-Taga Golf Association held last Sunday, March 20, at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort east course.

This after the businessman shot net 63, which was three strokes better than February winner and Senate President Pete P. Reyes' 66.

Sigua got to the top of the monthly golf tournament of Fil-Taga after his 24 handicap helped him trim the 87 gross he shot last weekend at the Kagman golf venue. Reyes, meanwhile, had a better day on the greens with a gross of 76 that went well with his 10 handicap.

Rey Ferraz

Sigua

closed out the Top 3 with his net 66—built around a gross of 90 and a handicap of 24. Ferraz had to settle for third place after being nosed out by Reyes on scorecard tiebreak.

Fred Cataluna (net 69), Fr. Manny Corcuera (69), Jhun Calma (69), Henry Bautista (70), Nestor Siruelo (70), James Lin (72), Mando Guban (73), 2007 Golfer of the Year Ralph Yumul (75), Rene Batallones (75), Jess Yumul (76), Ted Malaran (77), Mike Cruz

See SIGUA on Page 26

'Run For Ron' 5K fun run on May 11

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



All is set for the 5-kilometer "Run For Ron" fundraising event, which races off on May 11 at 6am at Micro Beach inside the American Memorial Park.

The 5K fun run and walk is veteran runner Ronald Villafria's fundraising event to help him finance his scheduled trip to Tokyo, Japan, where he will compete in the 2008 Mt. Fuji Marathon or Fuji Tozan race on July 25.

Proceeds of the Sunday fun run would help defray the cost of the Coco's Restaurant employee's plane ticket for the Japan trip.

Sponsors are lining up to help Villafria in his fundraising race with some donating prizes that would be given away on the day of the event. The Top 3 male and female winners will receive special giveaways.



The first male and female finisher will also receive a trophy, while age division winners will also get exciting prizes.

The first 100 participants who will register for the fun run will also get a free event T-shirt. Registration forms are available at Coco's Restaurant in Garapan or at Romy's Auto Glass Pro in Beach Road.

Participants can also register on May 11 and the entrance fee is \$10.

The course to be used is the same course in the Club Elan 5K Fun Run organized by Hyatt Regency Saipan's Club Elan.

Villafria said he is thankful for all sponsors who helped him in organizing the race.

Some of the sponsors that either do-

See RUN on Page 26

JON PEREZ
Veteran runner Ronald Villafria jogs along Beach Road in last month's Tagaman Triathlon. Villafria did the run leg to help his team, composed of swimmer Rezne Wong and biker Rene Calage, win the Team Relay event.